THE FARMERS' CABINET,

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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Indian Corn.

The following communication was read to the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, February 21, 1838, and directed to be published in the Farmers' Cabinet.

Of all the kinds of grain raised in the United States, Indian corn is the most valuable, taking into view the quantity and the price per bushel, and it has been a subject of much solicitude for some years past, that the early frosts have done such extensive injury to it; diminishing the crops and otherwise rendering it of much less value for feeding stock. In the South, the seasons are sufficiently long and warm to mature it, but in the middle and northern states this is not the case, and consequently, our farmers have been directing their attention to other varieties than those heretofore cultivated, that will ripen earlier and bear planting at a later period. Of the kinds experimented upon with this view none has succeeded so well as the variety called the "Dutton Corn." This answers the purpose completely, as it may be planted the latter part of May, and even as late as the first of June, and cut off the first week in September fully ripe. It is a hard corn, deeply yellow, grains set very close, generally twelve rows, sometimes more, and never eight. It is remarkably heavy and believed to be more sweet and nutritious than the ordinary kinds of corn usually raised in our country. The stalk is small and it shades the ground less than other kinds, and of course admits of being planted much nearer together. A specimen of the ears has been deposited at the office of the Farmers' Cabinet, so that those who desire to see it may have an opportunity of inspecting it, and thereby prevent their being deceived; as much of the small eight rowed yellow northern corn, which also ripens early but not so soon as the Dutton, has been sold some years past for the real invaluable "Dutton corn." This in some instances has produced much disappointment and loss, but perhaps the venders of it, have themselves been deceived and no fraud intended.

Isaac Roberts, near Springmill, in Montgomery county, raised an acre and a half of it last year, which produced about seventy-five bushels without a soft ear. It was cut off the first week in September, and the ground ploughed and sowed with winter grain.

The rats and mice which are admitted to be good judges of the qualities of grain, have displayed a very decided preference for the Dutton corn, where that and the common kind have been equally accessible to them.

A. B.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Thatching.

I have received two interesting communications in answer to my inquiries—one of them is so emphatically addressed to me for my private information, that it is not proper to give the *name* of the writer—which if not objected to, it is always better to give for obvious reasons. Mr. Gardner comes at once to the point on the score of *expense*, and proves that a thatched roof is cheaper by the cost of the shingles, where a grass, such as that mentioned as growing on Doctor Tongue's marshes, which nature seems to have made for the purpose, may be had for nothing; and is burned off in the spring, "any-how."

York, Penn., Feb, 5, 1838.

J. S. Skinner, Esq.

Sir:—In the Farmers' Cabinet of the 15th January, 1838, I saw your communica-

tion on the subject of "Thatching." If it be at all acceptable, I can only give you some practical information, on the subject of your enquiry. A thousand bundles of rye straw is worth sixty dollars; supposing the straw to be of a good quality, it would produce six thousand thatches, which would make as much roof as an equal number of shingles, that would cost nine dollars a thousand. The straw would cost - - - - $60.00.

The Shingles, (Pine.) - 54.00.

$ 6.00

There would be a balance of six dollars in favor of the shingles. A well made thatched roof will last from twenty to twenty-five years. I have known thatched roofs to last thirty years and turn the rain.

A farmer, or tobacco planter, who has the straw and need not purchase it, would probably have nearly as good and certainly a cheaper roof than by purchasing pine shingles, rails, &c.

Respectfully yours,

John Gardner.

Centre Square, Pa., 1st mo. 30th, 1838.

To J. S. Skinner:

I observe in the last "Cabinet," over the above signature, an article on the subject of "Thatching," with a number of queries which I feel a willingness to endeavor to answer in a private way according to the best of my knowledge on that subject, having been acquainted with it from my youth up to this time, say fifty years. "In what part of Pennsylvania is it most used or best understood?" I am unable to say; but in the neighborhood, or part of the country I have lived, it is more or less practised by most farmers, generally for the covering of barracks, hog-pens and hen-roosts. Rye straw is the article altogether used for that purpose, and the best of any thing we have. If the straw is good, bright and well put on, it will cast rain fifteen years, and with a little repairing will often last several years longer. With regard to a comparison between that and other kinds of roofing as to cost, it would be difficult to decide with any degree of accuracy, as the different articles mentioned in the communication, vary so much in price in different parts of the country; but I think I can put the thing in a way so that thee can calculate it near enough for the neighborhood of Baltimore. For instance, fifty good bundles of straw, say two bundles to twelve sheaves of rye, will cover from sixteen to twenty square yards according to the thickness it is put on. I do not think it the better for being too thick. With regard to thatching houses with straw, wherein there is stove wood fires used, I have no faith in that practice, though I never have seen it tried, but we may easily form an idea what would become of it, if the chimney should happen to get on fire and burn out. I am not aware that I can describe the process so as to be understood either by "a printed description or a diagram," although the process is so very simple, that I think I could teach any man of common understanding the whole mystery in less than ten minutes, if I had him here, though it is like many other things "*practice makes perfect.*" But I have no doubt that any handy man after a few days practice, would be able to put on from 30 to 40 square yards of straw roof in a day, on being well attended with the material in good order. The wages much the same as for other common work. "Could a man be had in Pennsylvania, to come into Maryland to thatch Tobacco houses?" I think such a man could be had, but would suggest that it would be more profitable to the proprietor to send a man here, and we would soon teach him the whole art for nothing, and then he might go back and set up for himself. The frame work is much the same as for shingling.—Rafters may be about 3½ feet distant. Lath further apart, say 15 to 18 inches, according to length of straw or other material used, and two inches wide by one in thickness, and if there was a false lath tacked half way between the better, to keep up the butts of the straw, as when one course is put on the butts will hardly reach to the next lath above; something like a split hoop-pole would answer very well, but secure all the straw to the first mentioned lath. I will however proceed and try to describe the process of *thatching*. In the first place when the frame work is prepared, the operator may set himself on the lower lath at the eaves, having the straw well shook so as to dispense with all the shorter particles, and tied up in small bunches of about the size both hands will enclose, secured withabout half a dozen straws round the middle and then handed to the operator, who will place it on the lath so as to tie about twelve inches from the butt tucked with a small band, say ¾ of an inch diameter after being twisted, but not under as in binding a sheaf, still drawing a small parcel out of the above hand-full or last hand-full put on, either up or down; but not drawing it entirely from under the few straws or band that secures it to the lath, and then twist that last drawn so as to fasten in with the ends of the first band, and when well twisted together, bring it over the second hand-full and under the lath, giving the hand-full a pound with the other fist while drawing in order to settle and flatten it, and so on till the first course is done, which will be all

fastened on with one continued band, by splicing it at every hand-full as mentioned; the operator still moving backward all the time. He must proceed with the second course, going back to the same end of the building where he first began; he there begins in the same manner, only turning the straw the other end up, which will cover the first course entirely down to the eaves, and so continue with butts up in every course after the first to the top of the building. When both sides are done in this manner, secure the comb by laying a course of straw along and a light pole on each side to keep it there, or any other mode that may suggest.

The straw should be all dampened unless the weather is damp and cloudy. I see no reason why the grass mentioned in thy communication should not answer as well as rye straw after being thoroughly cured. Ice houses are almost entirely covered with straw in our country, on account of the rays of the sun not heating straw as much as a wooden roof. Having thrown these hints together in haste for thy own private use, I conclude with respect.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Mr. Editor.—Whilst I appreciate your Cabinet as the vehicle of valuable information for farmers, I cannot but fear it has a tendency to mislead some in their estimates of the profits of agriculture generally. There are, undoubtedly, some choice spots of ground, very productive, and profitable to their owners; of which, we do not fail being told, through the medium of agricultural publications, and, in some instances, the accounts are greatly exaggerated. There are very many farmers in Chester county, which, by the by, is one of the most fertile in our state, who barely receive reasonable remuneration for their labor,—who, if they would give us a correct detail of their farming operations, would present quite a different picture when contrasted with those before mentioned.

The profits of agriculture will be found to be very moderate, if the estimate be made for five or ten years together.

STALL FEEDING CATTLE.

In a former number of the Cabinet I gave a hint that I might give some account of stall-feeding cattle; I shall only make a statement of facts, as they occurred with me, and shall be obliged to any more experienced feeder, if he will show me, wherein I could have done better (with the single exception of having sold my cattle off the grass, which in that instance, I think, would have been the more profitable.)

I ascertained that two yokes of oxen would sell for two hundred dollars, if sold off the grass; this I considered a fair price, but, being disposed to stall-feed for more profit, I had them put in the stalls about the first of November, 1836, and sold them about the middle of February, following, when beef was selling "high" in market. I sold them at 9 cents per lb. with the allowance of 60 lbs. to the 100, for beef—which is about the same as 5 1-3 cts., on the live weight—my account is as follows:

Dr.

4 Cattle worth - -	$200 00
5 1-2 Tons of hay at 12 00 -	66 00
102 Bus. of corn at 90 -	91 80
28 " of oats at 45 -	12 60
	370 40
Interest on the above, for 3 1-2 mos.	6 24
	$376 64

Cr.

4 Cattle sold for - - -	$300 00
Manure, exclusive of the littering	15 00
	315 00
Loss - - - - - -	61 64
	$376 64

The grain was measured carefully—the hay was estimated by taking portions out of the racks, at different times, and weighing them. Upon an average, they had, each 28 lbs. per day. I have no doubt of its being pretty nearly correct; therefore, it appears that I have lost nearly the amount of the hay by stall-feeding the cattle; which verified the truth of the saying, "you need not expect to get any thing for your hay."

Beef is now lower in price than it was this time last year, and grain could have been sold since harvest at the high prices—What will the profits be this winter? Farmers, keep good accounts, and let us hear through the medium of the Cabinet.

I should be very happy in communicating any knowledge that I possess, relative to farming or stock, were I persuaded, that in so doing, I would confer any thing useful on the farming community—but, unfortunately, many of us are quite deficient in that kind of knowledge which would tend to profit, did we but possess it. In this as in other things, let us "go ahead." Intelligence is as useful, and, very probably, as powerful as money.

Patent scales are being erected in different parts of our country; these will afford to farmers, the means of ascertaining the weight of their cattle when fatted—much is lost to the unskilful farmer by the erroneous estimate of the weight of his cattle, sometimes

owing to the bad judgment, but more generally, the duplicity, of the broker with whom he deals. Very superior cattle, weighing alive over 2000lbs. may probably, neat 70lbs. to the 100; but such cattle as are more commonly sold, of which many are oxen, weighing from 1200 to 2000lbs. alive, from the best information I have, I would say, 60 lbs. to the 100 is a pretty fair allowance; if not altogether as fat as they should be, perhaps, they would lose nearly one-half. I have not tried hogs very extensively, but found six shotes, eight months old, to weigh, alive 1285lbs. with ordinary treatment; when killed and dressed, they weighed about 1000 lbs. losing rather more than one-fifth—one weighing alive 165lbs.—weighed 130lbs. when dressed. There may be some profit with hogs, provided you can have the pigs early in the spring, and market them early in the ensuing fall, but, I have doubts of their being profitable when kept over winter, excepting for breeders. Hogs of 18 months, rarely weigh over 350lbs., with the ordinary treatment—and I cannot persuade myself to believe that "31-2 lbs. of corn meal, made into mush, will make a pound of pork."

I have found it better to sell pork at the usual killing time, than to salt it, and sell it in bacon—it loses considerably in the drying.

I had two hogs set apart and weighed, after they were killed and dressed—they weighed jointly 659lbs.—After salting and drying in the usual manner, they made as follows:

Hams - - -	127 lbs.
Shoulder - -	116
Flitch - - -	95
Chines - -	45
Jowl - - -	28
Total	411

2 Shoulders before salting 64lbs., when dried 57lbs.; 1 ham, 35lbs. when dried 31½lbs.

In the valuable table, published in No. 20 of the Cabinet, I have discovered some typographical errors, in the most interesting part—those who have it can correct them with their pencil as follows:

Erase the number 3872 opposite, 4 ft. 6 in. by 2ft., draw a line connecting the aforesaid 2ft., with the next number to that erased, which is 4840—and so continue downwards, until you shall have drawn ten lines, connecting, lastly, 2ft. 6in., with the number 4356; then erase the 2ft. 3in. opposite to it, and the correction will then be completed.

Respectfully yours,

J. J. M.

Chester county, Feb. 11, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Farmers often state that the grain fed to cattle or hogs would have sold for more than the animals have brought after they were fattened: when this happens after a fair estimate, taking all the proper elements into calculation it is bad economy; but it is apprehended that, on a fair experiment, it seldom occurs unless it be occasioned by his own fault in buying too dear, selling too cheap, or mismanagement in feeding at too great an expense.

As regards the rate of purchase or sale under ordinary circumstances, where proper knowledge of the subject is possessed, it is presumed, that in the course of a series of years the supply and demand regulates it, as it regulates all other matters of trade, so as to bring the price to a fair medium, giving to each party engaged in the business of buying or selling a fair remuneration for his outlay of capital, risk, expense and labor. If this was not the case, the particular branch of business on which a loss always took place would be abandoned by every body, and would cease to be carried on till it would produce a fair return of profit. But it is apprehended, that the complaint, if it be a just one, has its origin more in the extravagance, and waste arising out of the mode of feeding, than from any other cause. The general practice is, to feed with whole grain, in its raw state, notwithstanding numerous experiments have been made in most civilized countries clearly demonstrating, that by this course of proceeding, about one half of it is lost, and the animal is not kept in as thriving a condition as he would have been, if it were steamed or boiled. Two years ago a very accurate experiment was made by a farmer in Maryland, in feeding a number of hogs of the same litter on whole shelled corn, and on mush made of corn meal. The hogs were carefully weighed at the commencement and termination of the experiment, and it was ascertained, that those fed on mush, gained more than those fed with the raw whole corn, although, the meal from which it was made, weighed only one half as much as the corn, on which the others were fed. This is an important affair truly—more meat made with half the grain. Now, if those who feed on whole grain could afford to sell their pork at seven cents a pound, that fed on cooked food could be sold at four cents or less, and nett the same profit. If the saving, by the general adoption of this well known and simple process in Pennsylvania, should be only one cent per pound, it would make an aggregate saving on the pork raised in the state of more than one million of dollars per annum. An annuity of a million of dollars a year for twenty five years, would amount to a sum

that would enable us to make a complete garden of our good Commonwealth, and intersect it in every direction with rail roads and canals, and build school houses within blowing distance of every farmer's mansion in the state. The experiment above referred to was published at the time in several agricultural journals so as to give it publicity, but farmers have generally gone on in the old way of feeding notwithstanding.* Another experiment was made and published in 1821, to show the economy of feeding a horse with ground oats, instead of giving the grain whole as is usual; it resulted in proving the fact that one half the quantity crushed kept a horse in better order, he undergoing the same labor during the trial.

No person brought up on a farm can have failed to have remarked that, when cattle were fed on whole grain, a considerable portion of it escaped being digested, and was ejected without having parted with any of its nutritious qualities, and this crude undigested matter passing the whole line of the alimentary canal, must certainly have been productive of discomfort to the animal, independent of doing no good during its long journey. The sugar beet which some of our most intelligent farmers are beginning to cultivate, and which produces from 1000 to 2000 bushels (each weighing 60lbs.) to the acre, has been found to be a very important and cheap auxiliary in feeding all descriptions of animals. A farmer in Delaware county raised 3000 bushels the past season, which he has been feeding to his stock this winter with great advantage; and it is to be hoped the coming season that many will avail themselves of this very nutricious and valuable vegetable for the use of their cattle next winter. The feeding with roots cannot be too highly prized. In England and Scotland, no farmer pretends to carry his stock through the winter without the extensive use of roots of some kind, and it is a very remarkable fact, that in Great Britain, no disease under the name of Hollow Horn is known, which some ascribe to the universal practice of feeding cattle with a portion of succulent food daily during the winter season.

AGRICOLA.

For the Farmers Cabinet.

Marl, &c.

It is said that in passing through Virginia, you can tell from the appearance of the farms, who takes the "Farmers' Register," such has been the effect of that valuable agricultural journal in that state. Now you must not consider me as using an empty compliment, if, I state that it is thought, it will not be long, before the same remark may justly be made in respect to your own journal, "the Farmers Cabinet," in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; for I find that the best and most intelligent farmers, in the parts of those two states, where I am pretty extensively acquainted, not only take your Cabinet, but esteem it a most valuable acquisition in their families. Some have stated that frequently a single number is worth more than a whole years subscription I therefore, hope you will persevere in your good work of sowing the seeds of agricultural knowledge broad-cast through the land, and I trust that both you and they will receive their reward in due season. Now I want some of your intelligent Jersey subscribers to furnish for the Cabinet an account of their marl; the quantity per acre, that is found the most useful, and its effects, on grass, corn, potatoes or grain; the cost of the article on tide water where vessels can take it in, and what places or creeks it can be delivered at cheapest; also how far it will bear hauling by land—also the best mode of applying it to the soil, and in fact all, and every information which may be useful to a person who may desire to apply it; and if practicable to furnish it, I should be pleased to learn the theory of its operations in promoting vegetation. The above information, if satisfactory, and it should suit the soil in Pennsylvania, may lead to a profitable and extensive traffic between the two states. Pennsylvania can furnish lime in exchange for marl, and, perhaps both states be benefitted.

We begin to think that the Jersey marl is pushing that state ahead of us, and we are desirous of not being left too far in the rear of our industrious neighbors, if we can help it by fair competition. It has long been remarked, that the Jersey farmers, who attend the market excel us on this side of the river, in the neatness and care with which their marketing is got up. Their dressing of veal, lamb, &c. excels that of our best professional butchers, and there is exhibited in all their articles offered for sale, a tact in the getting up, that is unrivalled in our market. But this is not all; they get from 10 to 25 per cent more, for the same description of articles, and of no superior original quality, than is generally got by our Pennsylvania farmers, a very few instances excepted, and the education or paternity of some of these excepted cases can readily be traced across the Delaware. Now, if these are facts, and I believe many witnesses could be brought to testify to them; it would be very desirable to be informed, why this disparity has been brought into existence, and also the best and most speedy remedy for bringing us up to an equality at least, with our very respectable and thrifty neighbors over the water. It is a

* See Farmers' Cabinet, vol. I. page 153.

a well known fact, that the citizens of Philadelphia are always willing to pay a higher price for articles, that are well and neatly got up, and exhibited in a clean and tidy manner, without the appearance of blood, dirt, or dirty cloths; and it is said that it helps the price, and procures a more ready sale, if the vendor is clean shaved, and has no segar in his mouth. It is even said, that some fastidious people have adopted it as a rule for themselves, not to purchase any article of a person who smokes in market; perhaps, this is carrying it too far, but every one must be indulged in his notions in these matters. Now, Mr. Editor, if you do not think the above worth printing, just put it in the fire, and say nothing about it; but if you will ask the foregoing questions, you will oblige an indifferent

FARMER.

Feb. 22, 1838.

From the Yankee Farmer.

Profits of Gardening.

Mr. COLE:—Last year, I purchased at your office the following seeds, one paper of each, at 6 1-4 cents per paper, amounting to 37 1-2 cents which yields as follows:

Ruta Baga,	30 bush., at 25 cts.		$7 50
T. R. Cabbage,	30 do.	31 1-4	9 37½
Sugar Beet,	8 do.	75	6 00
Onion,	5 do.	1 00	5 00
Carrot,	7 do.	33	2 31
Parsnep,	6 do.	50	3 00
			$33 18½
Cost of raising, and seed.			5 37½
Profit,			$27 81

Probably I should have had double the amount had I put the seed on more ground, as the vegetables grew very large, some of the ruta bagas weighed from 8 to 10 pounds apiece—the turnep rooted cabbages below ground 12lbs., and some of the sugar beets over 6lbs. I mention this small instance of the great profit of gardening to show what farmers and gardeners may do, and the importance of sowing and planting good seed.

A YOUNG FARMER.

ECONOMICAL FOOD FOR HORSES.

Nine pounds of bread, made of oatmeal and bean flour, will afford more nourishment to horses than a bushel of oats of good quality. A French farmer in Hainault feeds his horses during the winter with a mixture of boiled potatoes and chopped straw, giving each horse daily, at two feeds, about fourteen pounds of potatoes, which food agrees with the horses, and is much relished by them.

The Sugar Beet.

As many of our farmers are directing their attention to the cultivation of the beet root, principally for the use of stock, we have thought that a few remarks on its cultivation, gleaned from sources entitled to confidence, would be acceptable to the readers of the Cabinet. CHAPTAL, authorized by 10 or 12 successive years of experiments and observations upon the culture of the beet-root, advises the "sowing of the seed in the latter part of April or the beginning of May, when there is no longer any danger of the return of frost, I have sown it with good success about the middle of the month of June." In this latitude the middle of April would probably answer very well, allowance, however, should be made for the state of the weather. It does not answer well to sow "immediately after the cessation of frosts as the ground being cold and wet the seed does not germinate immediately, and the soil becoming hardened by the violence of the rains, does not admit the air to penetrate, so that if the seed do not decay, the beets come up badly." The most favorable period for sowing is that when the earth, although heated by the rays of the sun, still contains sufficient moisture to produce germination and to facilitate the growth of the young plant; the month of April and the early part of May generally unite these advantages.

CHOICE OF SEED.

"A good agriculturist should always raise his own seeds; for this purpose he will plant his beet-roots in the spring, in a good soil, and gather the seed in September, as fast as it ripens, selecting only the best, and leaving upon the stalks such as are not thoroughly ripe; each beet-root will furnish from five to ten ounces of seeds. When no care is taken in selecting the seeds, and they are sown indiscriminately, not only are many of the beets small, and ill-grown, but half of the seeds sown do not yield any thing." The seeds should be fresh, not exceeding two years old, and the utmost care should be taken that they are of the true kind.

CHOICE OF SOILS.

Distinction in the choice of soils for the culture of this root is exceedingly important. Its nature is to penetrate low into the ground, and, therefore, prefers a deep loose mould in which it can vegetate without obstacle. Its radicles easily collect the nourishment necessary for its support, and it thrives luxuriantly.* All grain lands are more or less

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* Notice of the Sugar Beet, page 20.

adapted to the cultivation of beets, but the best soils for the purpose are those that have the greatest depth of vegetable mould. They may be cultivated with good success upon natural or artificial grass lands, but they come up badly when sown in the spring upon such lands as are are broken up in the preceding autumn, the turf and roots do not in so short a time become sufficiently decomposed, and in order to have good beet-roots it is necessary to raise a crop of oats between the time of breaking up a meadow and sowing it with beet-seed, after this two successive crops of the finest beets may be grown. Dry, calcareous and light soils are but little suited to the culture of this root, nor will it flourish well in strong clayey soils.*

SITUATION OF THE GROUND.

The position of the ground employed for this culture is not a matter of indifference. In highland the beet succeeds but imperfectly in dry seasons, but it is then easily worked; the crops on these high grounds are abundant in wet seasons. In low marsh grounds the case is reversed, the crop is drowned, and the beet generally saturated with water, whilst in warm dry years the crops are excellent, because the heat and drought are counteracted by the fresh and moist sub-soil. To obtain average crops it is, therefore, prudent when it can be done, to choose a situation exposed to neither of these extremes.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

Generally speaking I cultivate beets upon all such lands as are appropriated for sowing grain upon in the fall. The lands I prepare for receiving the seed by three good tillings, two of which are performed in the winter, and one in the spring, by this last ploughing the dung which is thrown upon the ground after the second is mixed with it, the quantity of manure employed is the same as if the ground was to be immediately sown with wheat.† The importance of thorough ploughing, harrowing, rolling, and all other means of improving soils is now pretty well understood. All plants do not require in the same degree these precautions, and those which require them *least* generally rank among *exhausting* plants, while those that can least dispense with them are considered *fertilizing*. The beet is of this latter description, and one of the leading advantages which it offers to agriculture is the necessity it creates not only for deep and thorough ploughings, but moreover the careful culture it requires, and the means necessary to gether it, must in the aggregate necessarily leave the soil in a highly improved state, and the benefits therefore to rural economy which an extensive culture of this plant must produce are incalculable.

* Chaptals Agricultural Chemistry, page 317.
† Ib. 318.

SOWING BEET SEED.

CHAPTAL, always good authority, says that beet-seed may be sown in either of the three following methods. 1. In a seed-plot. 2, in drills. 3. broad-cast. The first of these, ways offers to the agriculturist the advantage of requiring much the least time at a season of the year when every moment is precious—the young plants may be transplanted the latter part of May or in the month of June before hay-harvest. The first and third method of sowing are objectionable. Chaptal employed the process of sowing broad-cast for several years, but abandoned it for sowing in drills, as being more sure and more economical. For this purpose, as soon as the ground is prepared I trace upon the surface, by means of a harrow armed with four teeth, distant about eighteen inches from each other, furrows of an inch in depth; the seed is dropped in these furrows at intervals of sixteen inches, by women or children who follow the harrow, and who cover the earth over the seeds with their hands. Each woman can plant in this manner, six or eight thousand seeds in a day,—page 319. Four pounds of seeds will be sufficient to plant an acre. But whatever mode may be followed it is necessary to observe the three following rules. 1. To sow only new and naturally fertile soils. 2. Not to place the seed at the depth of more than an inch. 3. Not to sow the seed too thick.

WEEDING AND OTHER LABOR NECESSARY TO THE CULTURE OF THE BEET.

Few plants require more care than beets, their development being greatly impeded by the neighborhood of other plants, and if the soil be not light and loose around them, they languish, turn yellow and cease to grow.—If the plants are sown in furrows, the plough or cultivator may be passed between the rows, and the roots of the plants be cleared with the weeding fork. The same operation must be repeated at least twice in a season. As weeding opens the earth to the free entrance of air and water, the plants may be seen to be benefitted by it; the green of their leaves deepens, their roots increase in size, and their foliage expands.—*Chaptal.*

It is well suited for feeding milch cows, being exceedingly nutritious, and causing them to give abundant milk, while it does not taint it with the bad flavor which turneps give.—*Low.*

Remarks on the gathering and preservation of the beet-root will be given hereafter.

Cultivation of the Sugar Beet.

Mr. Kitchen, near New Hope, Pennsylvania, raised ruta baga and sugar-beet. He fed the former to his cows, but soon found a bitter taste was imparted to the milk and butter; he then commenced feeding on the sugar beet, and obtained not only an increased quantity of milk of superior richness, and consequently of butter, but the latter was considered equal to that made in summer. He has already secured seed for the next season, being convinced of the superiority of sugar-beet for the feeding of stock.

J. L., near Jenkentown, had three cows, two of which he fed on ship-stuff, the other he fed on the sugar-beet. The latter gave an increased quantity of milk of a rich cream color, and the butter was fully equal to that made in the summer season. J. L. has cultivated the sugar-beet two seasons, and has a high opinion of its nutritious qualities.

A gentleman, near Haddonfield, N. J. gave ruta baga and corn at the same time to his hogs; the corn was eaten in preference to the turnep; he then gave corn and sugar-beet, the latter was devoured with avidity, and the corn left untouched.

———, of Bucks county, while fattening a cow gave her the sugar-beet which she eat with greediness, and refused pumkins, until the stock of beets was exhausted.

Ezekiel Rhoades, near Norristown, has fed his cows on sugar-beet during the present winter, and he says the result was an increased proportion of milk and butter of very superior quality.

The above are a *few* facts of many in our possession, all tending to show that the sugar beet is worthy the attention of farmers. as an article of winter food for their stock.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Ross' Patent Threshing Machine.

This machine is constructed, so that the part usually denominated the *cylinder* in Threshing Machines, is made smaller in the middle than at the two ends, and instead of being a cylinder, it is in fact, formed by the unison of two truncated cones at their smaller ends. The difference of diameter between the middle and ends, may be about one inch; or instead of two truncated cones, this part may be made concave in a regular curve, reducing its diameter in the middle, so that it shall be three-fourths of an inch, or upwards, less there than at the two ends.

The effect of this arrangement, it has been experimentally proved, is to prevent that annoyance from the current of wind and dust, produced in other machines for threshing grain.

The power of one horse to drive the machine, will thresh in a day, from fifty to one hundred bushels of wheat or other grain.—Two horses will thresh from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty bushels in a day.—Three horses, from one to two hundred bushels in a day, and four horses from two to four hundred bushels in a day. This machine can be built for forty dollars.

My machine for *threshing clover*, can be built for forty dollars, and it will, with the power of one horse, thresh from one to two bushels per hour. Two horses from one to three bushels per hour. Three horses from one to four bushels per hour. Four horses from one to five bushels per hour.

My machine *for shelling corn*, will shell from one to three bushels per minute, price thirty-five dollars.

The corn sheller was patented in April, 1833, and the other two, in February, 1835.

Joseph Ross.
February 9th, 1838.

We are requested to state that Mr. Ross will dispose of single rights for the above named machines, township, county or state, on the most reasonable terms. Application may be made to him at Boundbrook, Somerset county, N. J. In the list of premiums awarded by the managers of the late fair of the American Institute, held in New York, we find the following:—To Joseph Ross, Boundbrook N. J., for the best Clover Threshing Machine and Corn Sheller, "a silver medal."

RAISING POTATOES.

A correspondent says:—I will barely state a fact, or rather an experiment in the agricultural line. I planted in my garden in 1836, one potatoe, from which I raised ninety-six potatoes. In 1837, I planted the ninety-six, and raised from them eighteen and a half bushels of as large and handsome potatoes as I ever saw. Thus in two years I raised from one potatoe eighteen and a half bushels. The only secret is, I cut out the eyes, and put one eye in the hill. I deem it important for farmers to know this, as there is a great saving in seed.—*Conn. Observer.*

Worth trying.—An experienced writer says that one bushel of flaxseed ground with eight bushels of oats, is better for horses than sixteen bushels of oats alone, and will effectually cure the bots. If this really be the case, the mixture would be much cheaper food for horses than oats by themselves, for one bushel of flax-seed, would not generally cost more than four bushels of oats, leaving a saving of 4 bushels in every 16. It is worth a trial.

Raising Poultry—Domestic Fowls.

The varieties of the common fowl are very numerous, and distinguished from one another by their size, color, and fecundity.

1. The game-fowl is a very singular creature on account of its habits. Size less than that of the common fowl, symmetry of its limbs greater, and the beauty of its plumage remarkable, when not mutilated for the barbarous sport for which it is destined. Its flesh is white, and esteemed beyond that of all the common kinds for its delicacy and flavor; but the singular pugnacity of disposition, which shows itself at the earliest period of life, deters all breeders rearing it except for the purpose of gaming. Whole broods, scarce feathered, become blind from continued fighting. They cannot be employed for crossing the common fowl.

2. The Dorking-fowls, so named from a town in Surrey, are the largest and finest of our domestic breed. Their color is wholly white, their body is capacious, and they are prolific layers of eggs. They are distinguished by having five claws on each foot.

3. Equal to the Dorking in estimation, are the Poland fowls. Their color is black, heads flat, and surmounted with a crown of feathers. They are a very useful variety, prolific of eggs, but less inclined to set, than those of any other breed.

4. The Bantum is a little Indian breed, very delicate to eat, but, from the smallness of its size, not of any economical importance.

5. The Chitogong or Malay fowl, is the largest variety of the species, but the flesh is regarded as inferior to those described.—When it is wished to form a breed of fowls, the breeding should be from a young stock. Hens are at their prime at three years old, and decline after the age of five. *The best period to commence breeding is in the spring*—Low. The number of hens to one male should be from four to six, the latter being the extreme number, with a view of making the utmost advantage, although ten and even twelve have been formerly allowed.

POULTRY HOUSES, YARD, &c.

The situation of the poultry house should be dry, and exposed either to the east or south-east, so as to enjoy the sun's ray's in winter as soon he rises above the horizon—Loudon. Where a *set* of houses are intended then, a situation should be fixed on, near or close to the farm yard, and with ample space around for the fowls to disperse over in the day time, and one or more ponds for the aquatic sorts. All must have access too gravelled yard and to grass for range, and have clear water near. Great attention should be paid to cleanliness and whitewashing, not for appearance but to destroy vermin—Arthur Young.

The following remarks are from Maubray's work on Poultry:—"A space thirty by fifty feet may be made choice of for the buildings and yards; the building may be ranged along the north side, and the three other sides enclosed with a trellis or slatted, or wire fence, from six to eight feet in height, and subdivided with similar fences. according to the number of apartments. The hen house (*a* fig. 37) and turkey house (*b*) may have the

Fig 37.

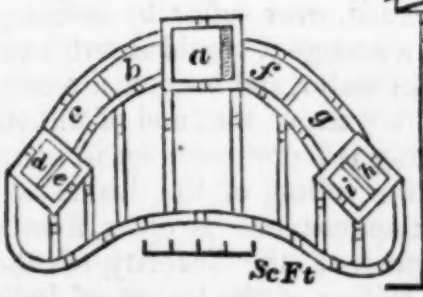
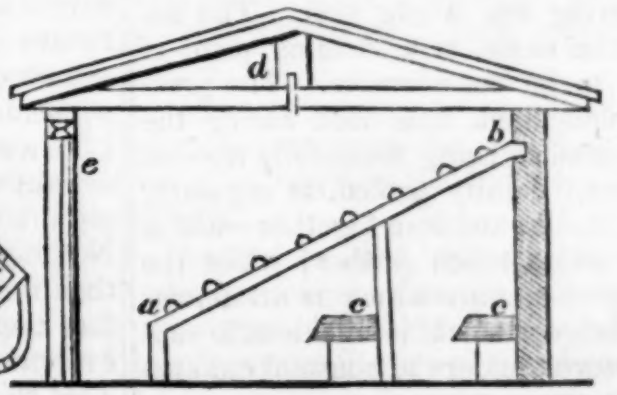


Fig. 38.



roosts (*c*, *c*) in part over the low houses for ducks (*d*) and geese, (*f*, *g*, *h*) and besides these there may be other apartments for hatching, or for newly hatched broods, for fattening, to serve as an hospital, or for retaining, boiling, and otherwise preparing food, killing poultry and other purposes. A flue may pass through the whole for moist or very severe weather; and the windows ought to have outward shutters, both for excluding excessive heat and excessive cold. In every apartment there ought to be a window opposite to the door, in order to create a thorough draft, when both are opened, and also a valve in the roof, to admit the escape of the hottest and lightest air. Every door ought to have a small opening at the bottom, for the admission of the fowls when the door is shut.—The elevation should be a simple style, and there may be a pigeonry over the centre building. The roost is sometimes a mere floor or loft, to which the birds fly up or ascend by a ladder; at other times it is nothing more than the coupling timbers of the roof,

or a series of cross battens or rods, rising in gradation from the floor to the roof. The battens should be placed at such a distance horizontally as that the birds, when roosting, may not incommodate each other by their droppings. For this purpose they should be a foot apart for hens, and eighteen inches apart for turkies. The slope of the roost may be about 45°, and the lower part should lift up by hinges in order to permit a person to remove the dung. No flying is requisite in case of such a roost, as the birds ascend and descend by steps, see figure 39, in which (*a*, *b*) are spars for the poultry to sit on (*c*, *c*) ranges of boxes for nests, (*d*) the roof, (*e*) the door which should be nearly as high as the ceiling, for ventilation, and should have a small opening with a shutter at bottom, to permit the poultry to go in and out at pleasure. The spars on which the clawed birds are to roost, should not be round and smooth but roundish and roughish like the branch of the tree."—Maubray.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Soiling of Cattle.

The following is taken from "the Diary of an Invalid," a late traveler in Switzerland and may serve to show something of the manner of managing cattle in that country, where industry and thrift are the order of the day. If you think it worth publishing it is at your service. X.

"In the neighborhood of Lausanne, there is a large grazing farm, where no less than a hundred cows are kept in the confinement of the stall during the whole year. The advantage of this mode, in a farming point of view, seem to be considerable. The grass which supplies them with food during the summer, instead of being wastefully trodden under foot, and daintly picked, is regularly and fairly cut—fat and lean together—and is thus made to go much farther; while the vast quantity of *manure* which is accumulated from so large a stock, is sufficient to support the pastures, under the constant exhaustion of the scythe.

The Swiss are very attentive to the dressing of their pastures, and to the preservation of the means of doing so; particularly to the *urinary* part of the manure, by far the richest and most valuable, of which they collect and treasure up every drop with scrupulous care.

The animals on the other hand give more milk than if they were at liberty, and are in much better condition, in the grazier's sense of the word; that is, they are always ready for the butcher. The only objections to this mode, arise out of considerations for the happiness of the animals themselves, to whom we are disposed to attribute human feelings and sentiments, and to imagine that they derive the same pleasure from browsing freely in the sunshine of the meadow, or reposing in the protecting shade of the woodland, surrounded by the beauties of nature, which we should ourselves feel, if similarly situated.

But it may, I think, be fairly concluded that animals, though they may seem to participate with man, to a certain extent in the faculty of reason, are utterly insensible to all the pleasures of taste and imagination. The beautiful has no charms for the brute creation; and even in the passion of sexual desire, where, if any where, it might be supposed to have some influence; we do not perceive that youth, beauty, and cleanliness, make a more forcible appeal to their feelings, than age, dirt, and deformity. And it may be doubted, whether, the tranquility and protection from flies during summer, afforded by the stall, be not sources of greater gratification to these animals, with whom—

"To live well, means nothing but to eat"

than any which they could find in the enjoyment of liberty, or the contemplation of the landscape."

On Deep and Frequent Ploughing.

The late Mr. Pickering, in an address before the Essex County Agricultural Society, says—"I entertain no doubt of the utility of deep ploughing; not at once, in our lands in general, but by an increase of 2 or 3 inches every annual ploughing, until the earth be stirred and pulverized to the depth of ten or twelve inches. Indian corn planted in such a mass of loosened earth, would not, I am persuaded, ever suffer by ordinary droughts. Like a sponge it would absorb a vast quantity of rain water, and become a reservoir to supply the want of that and of all other plants. Nothing is more common in a dry summer, than the rolling of the leaves of corn; and that circumstance is often mentioned as an evidence of the severity of the drought. This rolling of the leaves of Indian corn, is the consequence, in part, of scant manuring, but still more of shallow ploughing. Few, perhaps, are aware of the depth to which the roots of plants will penetrate in a deeply loosened earth. A gentleman much inclined to agricultural inquiries and observations, informed me nearly fifty years ago, that seeing some men digging a well in a hollow place, planted in Indian corn then at full growth, he stopped to examine how far its roots had descended, and he traced them to the depth of nine feet. The soil was an accumulation

of earth, which had run or been thrown down into the hollow.

The seeds of a common turnep sown in warm weather; and on a soil sufficiently moist, I have known to vegetate in about 48 hours; and in only four or five days afterwards, I found the plants had sent roots to the depth of four or five inches.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Ashes.

Of all things to make grass grow ashes beats; this you may depend upon, for I have tried it often, and it has never failed yet; just collect as much of it together as you can, the more the better, and spread it over your grass grounds, and see if I am not correct in my assertion. It is said by some people that it is the potash which is in it, that produces the effect and I strongly suspect they are right in this matter; for two years ago suspecting that to be the case, I procured some potash from an apothecary, which cost about five cents a pound, and dissolved it in water, and put it over the grass ground with a watering-pot, just for an experiment, and you would have been surprised to see how luxuriantly the grass grew where it was put. Now, I should like some of the intelligent farmers who take your paper to try an experiment with potash this spring, and inform your readers of the result through the Cabinet. Some say it is excellent for Indian corn; this might also be tried. My object is to make plenty of grass grow, for I find if we can do that, we then can accomplish every thing we can desire in agriculture, because with that, we can feed stock, and by that means make manure, and with plenty of manure, what cannot be done by industrious and intelligent farmers: I say industrious and intelligent, because without these two qualities, a man had better quit farming at once, and try to find out some business soon, that can be carried on to profit without those indispensable qualifications to a farmer; and when the discovery is made I hope it will be communicated through your paper, for I should like to embark in such a business as I am well adapted to it by nature.

MONTGOMERY.

N. B. A person has just informed me, that a plan of farming without industry has been on trial for many years in some part of North Carolina, but notwithstanding, they have exerted all their ingenuity on it they have not yet succeeded in their attempt. He says that when he returns there, if there should be any thing encouraging in the prospect, he will forward you a letter on the subject, as it is a matter of much interest to many farmers.

Leached or Slacked Ashes for as a Manure

Whilst nearly all who have tried ashes as a manure, bear testimony, in the strongest terms, to their superior efficiency as an improver of the soil; still we occasionally hear the question mooted, whether they possess any virtue as a manure! This is the more to be regretted, as even experience, itself, would seem to have but little, if any influence in settling a question of the deepest importance to every agriculturist living near any of our large cities, or on navigable water leading to them. To our mind, leached ashes will bear hauling by land several miles, and that, even when the first cost is added to that of transportation, they will be found to be a cheap manure. When they can be transported by water communication, in quantities, and at less cost, they are the more valuable; and, therefore, those who may reside on navigable rivers, convenient for their procurement and delivery, should make it a point of duty to themselves, and their country, to obtain them, as there can be no doubt that in addition to their efficacy in promptly restoring exhausted soils to a state of desirable fertility, they are, next to lime, among the most lasting manures ever applied to the earth. Among their other good qualities, they are equally beneficial when applied to *clays*, as to *sands*, and *sandy loams*—disintegrating the tenacious particles of the first, thus rendering them friable and easy of being worked; and imparting body and consistency to the two latter, so as to give to them a greatly increased capacity for retaining manures. To cold clays, they are particularly adapted by their warming qualities, infusing, as they do, an active and highly beneficial principle into bodies, which, otherwise, might have remained inert, if not noxious to healthful vegetation.

As a top dressing to meadows, when applied at proper seasons, and in proper quantities, they are found productive of the happiest effects.

Applied to *corn*, *wheat*, *rye*, *oats*, *buckwheat*, *turneps*, *potatoes*; indeed, to almost the entire vegetable family, they are eminently useful. For *turneps* and *corn*, we know of no manure that can compare with them in the degree of benefits resulting. On *corn* they have been known, even when applied in minute quantities to the hills say, a gill to each, to produce the most wonderful effects.

Having spoken of the proper seasons of application, and *proper quantities*, it may not be inopportune to remark, that on meadows they should be spread in early fall, winter or spring, when the ground is dry and firm, and when there be no danger of poaching—to all grain crops they should be applied to the sur-

face and harrowed in at the time of seeding: the *proper quantity*, we conceive to be, on *clays*, 200 bushels: on *sands* and *loams*, from 100 to 150 bushels to the acre.

Wood Ashes, we have seen it stated consists principally of potash or vegetable alkali, united with carbonic acid,* and that these substances have been proved by analysis, to exist in most plants. Now, if these be the principal ingredients in the composition of ashes, as they are known to be promotive of the vigorous growth ef plants, may not ashes, besides possessing the mechanical qualities we have before ascribed to them—of decreasing the tenacity and warming clays—and of giving tenacity to sands and loams—We say, may they not, also, contain, to a considerable extent, the principle of nutrition? We incline to this belief; and we think we are borne out in our opinion by the fact, of the astonishing difference in *product* they are known to effect, even when used in small quantities. The mere disintegration, or the division of the particles in the one soil, or the conferring *substance* upon the other, could not, if they possessed no other than stimulative powers, impart such lasting vigor, and give such productive capacity to plants, as are invariably witnessed. For *stimulation* without *nourishment*, good and wholesome nourishment, would, by mere force of its own action, bring about repletion, and consequently, premature decay and dissolution. Is vegetable *alkali*, combined witn carbonic acid and potash, essential to the growth of plants? Certainly, or we would not, by analysis, be able to find them forming the component parts of *healthy* plants. We admit, that the lacteals of the roots even of *healthy* plants, might take up these substances in their liquid or gaseous forms; but then, if they did not contain congenial *food*, but were merely *stimulative*, the very *excess* of the latter, would produce death in plants, as do alcoholic stimulants in the human subject.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

MANGE IN HOGS.

A correspondent of the Southern Planter says:—"During my travels through the State, especially towns and villages, I see a vast number of swine dying with what is called the *mange*, while many others are on the eve of expiring. This disease is very easily cured, if persons would only take the trouble of pulverizing sulphur, and giving each hog affected, one table spoonful in a little corn meal dough, twice a week for two weeks, they will shed the scurf and become perfectly clean. The sulphur at the same time destroys lice and fleas on the swine."

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* Gypsum has also been detected in ashes.

Indian Wheat.

This is the name applied to a grain, which recently has been brought into notice by its extraordinary productiveness, and of which as inquiries are constantly made of us, we propose to give what information we possess.

The plant refered to is, without question, the Tartarian Buck-wheat; or as it is called by others, the Siberian Buck-wheat. It belongs to the tribe of the *Polygonum* from its many sides; and its name Buck-wheat is supposed to be a corruption of Beech-wheat from the resemblance of its seeds to the Beech Mast. The cultivation of this particular kind of Buck-wheat is not new in this country nor in this state. The recent excitement in regard to it seems to have been accidental; its value perhaps being more particularly brought into view by the failure of common Wheat through the grain worm and by rust; and the loss of the Indian Corn by the inclemency of the seasons. This particular kind has been several years cultivated in Pennsylvania; and a beautiful sample of it was brought to us from the northwestern parts of that state three years since; but without any name by which to designate it, or any account of its cultivation or its yield. It has been likewise for several years cultivated successfully in Hampshire County in this State. It was said to have been introduced into Germany a century ago; and within a few years has been cultivated in Great Britain. It is supposed to possess considerable advantages over the kind that has been usually cultivated, not only because it is considerably heavier in the grain, but is generally considered more palatable. It is said to do well even in the poorest soils; is not affected by cold; and being more disposed to branch out and spread its stalks, requires not so much seed for its cultivation as the common kind of buck-wheat. Some persons, who have cultivated it demur to the fact of its being more productive; and complain of its flour as being blackish and rather bitter. These differences can only be reconciled by supposing differences in the modes of cultivation; in the nature of the soils, upon which it grows; in the kind of manure employed; in the manner of its being cured; and in the manufacture of the bread itself.

With a view to give the best information we have been able to obtain of its cultivation and history here, we subjoin some extracts from letters received in answer to our inquiries.

"Of its origin, says one of our correspondents, I know nothing; but report says some years since a traveller fed his horse at a public house, in a town a few miles north of us

(Hartland, Vt.,) and that after he left, a few grains were found in the trough in some respects resembling buck-wheat; and that these being sown, produced the grain now known by the name of Indian Wheat. It produced 30 or 40 bushels to the acre on ordinary land, such as will not bear a good crop of any other grain; and sometimes yields 75 to 100 bushels to the acre."

"Our farmers differ much as to the quantity of seed that should be sown. Some put on a bushel, some not more than eight quarts. I should say from 16 to 25 quarts. It may be sown any time till July. It requires from two to three months to come to maturity; if sown too early it will be in danger from late frosts. About the middle of June is the usual time of sowing here."

"The land should not be too rich. On common land without manure it succeeds well. Poor sandy land that is not worth cultivating in any other grain produces a fair crop. The ground should be prepared as for rye or oats. If the land be poor, it should be left as smooth as possible that the grain may be cradled low; as it generally branches out near the ground, especially when sowed thinly or on poor land. The average weight is 48 to 50lbs. per bushel. It is used for various kinds of bread stuff; also for feeding hogs, horses, cows, &c. When floured as it should be, it makes good bread if eaten when new, whether warm or cold. It will mix well with rye and Indian meal for coarse bread.—It is thought by some to be equal to corn for fattening hogs, bushel for bushel; but I think this is a mistake. I have known no experiments to test its value. It is fed to horses by some persons, but probably oats by weight are preferable. On the whole I think it a very valuable kind of grain, especially in places where the land is naturally poor or has become exhausted by long continued cultivation."

We have another letter before us, which states; "I suppose the right name of this grain to be Indian-wheat. It has been cultivated a number of years in Vermont, and in some parts of New York; but where it originally came from, I cannot tell. I broke up last year about 2 1-8 acres of a piece of pasture land; sowed one bushel and two quarts, and obtained one hundred bushels, which was the greatest yield I have heard of. It has been raised on almost all kinds of land. I sowed it last year on the 10th of June. I think it should be gathered when three fourths of the grain are ripe. It will produce from twenty to twenty-five pounds of flour per bushel. It is used as an article of food considerably in these times of scarcity, and is much used for fattening swine."

Such are the accounts we have received of the cultivation of this article of produce, which is comparatively new among us. We have been informed on authority on which we rely that it has this year yielded seventy-five bushels to the acre; but the circumstances under which this product has been obtained, have not come to our knowledge. It would be wrong to calculate upon any such amount as usual or probable. That which we have tested weighed 49lbs. to the bushel. A farmer with whom we are acquainted, who has used it in his family, has obtained 35lbs. of flour to a bushel of grain. A grain weighing this much, and yielding in a poor soil, without manure, even 25 or 30 bushels to the acre, must be pronounced a valuable acquisition. It is advised by some farmers to use it for horses; but one writer says, he has known it to produce a stupefying effect.—Young says, a bushel goes farther than two bushels of oats. In fattening swine it is said that eight bushels of buck-wheat will go as far as twelve bushels of barley-meal. We give these statements entirely upon the authority of others, having had very partial experience in the use of it for feeding. Buck-wheat cakes, which are almost a standing dish in Pennsylvania and Maryland, when well made, and eaten warm, are much esteemed by most people; are deemed nutritious; and have the advantage of not turning acid upon the stomach.

The plant is cultivated in many places extensively for its advantages in feeding Bees; its blossoms containing a large quantity of honey and remaining a long time open, different plants in the same field, and different parts of the same plant opening in flower at different times. One writer says "the *haulm* of buck-wheat is more valuable than clover if cut while in flower." It is of little value as food for animals after the seed has ripened.

One person says he has seen hogs after having eaten heartily of it become so inebriated as to be unable to walk without reeling. How far the use of it for swine would under such circumstances compromit those good men, who have signed the temperance pledge, is a nice question in casuistry, which we shall leave to them to decide. Perhaps they will construe their obligations in this matter as applying to the furnishing the means of intoxication only to human swine.

On its value as a green dressing and for the purpose of ploughing under, and as a protection of the young wheat, we shall have something to add a future and more convenient season.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Try to spend your time usefully both to yourself and others.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

Wine Making in the United States.

The following, extracted from the Southern Agriculturist for October, ought to be generally disseminated. It shows what can be done, and may induce others to try to do likewise. Mr. Herbemont has been making wine for many years—15 or 20 probably; and the writer of this has frequently had the pleasure of tasting its good qualities. I will not say it is equal to the best Medeira, but I do say I like it much better, as it is not *brandied*. The kind of grape he principally cultivates for his best wine is called the "Herbemont Madeira."

Yours, &c.,

G. B. S.

Extracted from an article in the October number of the Southern Agriculturist.

Columbia, S. C., Sept. 9, 1837.

By way of encouragement, I must tell you that I have this very day terminated my vintage, except a few odd grapes, which I shall gather next week, which will add 50 or 60 gallons of wine to that already made. I made at my farm 750 gallons, and in my garden 528 gallons. This last is a most enormous crop; for the vines that produced that quantity are on *one sixth part of an acre*. This is, therefore, at the rate of 3168 gallons to the acre, which is perhaps a greater crop than ever was made any where else; at least I never have seen any account of any more than 2000 gallons, and that is exceedingly rare. I have, moreover, reasons to believe that the wine will be of a very good quality. The produce of two of the vines in my garden is so great, that if I had not the most respectable witnesses of the fact, I should hesitate to name it. They produced *one hundred and thirty gallons of wine*, and even more.

Very respectfully,

N. Herbemont.

SHEEP.

It is computed in a book recently published at Cambridge, that the number of sheep in certain of the States, is as follows:

In Maine 622.619, New-Hampshire 465.-179, Vermont 1.099.011, Massachusetts 373.-322, Rhode Island 81.619, Connecticut 255.-169, New-York 4.299.879, New Jersey 250.-000, Pennsylvania 1.714.640, Delaware 150.-000, Maryland 270.000, Ohio 1.711.200, Kentucky 600.000, Virginia 1.000.000. The whole amount being 12.897.638. The whole quantity of wool produced is estimated at 41.-917.324lbs. Valued at $21,168.246.

Sumac.

There are great numbers of articles that grow spontaneously in our fields and woods, that we neglect to gather, but fit our ships to go to Europe, Africa, and Asia, to obtain them, because they sell them cheap; and to pay for them, draw off the life blood of our circulation. Our correspondent below, has pointed us to one article on which we may commence; there are thousands of others.—We hope he will continue his observations, and point them out.

TO AGRICULTURISTS.

That it is a lamentable fact—blessed as the people of these United States *are*, with an almost boundless extent of territory, comprehending, within its already populated limits, nearly every variety of soil as well as of climate; abounding with the mightiest rivers, intersected (as many parts of it now are, and doubtless all soon will be) with canals and rail-roads; and bountifully supplied with vast natural resources, to encourage and reward the toils of the laborer—that *necessity should have compelled* us, *to import from Europe and other foreign countries*, a very large proportion of the bread stuffs required to support us during the past and present year—surely no friend to his country can for a moment dispute. And the natural effect of the extraordinary state of things, ought to be, to teach us to examine minutely into our condition, and, *if it be possible*, strive, by increasing attentions to agriculture, to do away such a prolific source of national shame.

Within a short time past, I have seen with pleasure, in our own and several sister states, instances of watchfulness and care on the part of the legislatures, in providing suitable and duly qualified scientific gentlemen as geologists, to survey and report upon the various buried sources of mineral wealth, within their respective jurisdictions. Such profitable legislation cannot be too highly praised, as it is calculated to bring forward into places of usefulness, many of the scientific men with which our country is now so well supplied—men who have genius, cultivation, and talent, and are competent to develop her natural treasures in the soil, and to point out the best plans for making such riches available. But why should we neglect the vegetable kingdom?

In the indigenous vegetables of which America is so prolific, we have before us an immense field of action; and, one would think, such a research for the botanist might go hand in hand with that of the geologist; the latter would inform us as to the soils, and the former indicate those native productions which would flourish best, if planted there.

I am fully convinced in my own mind, that our country *does* produce many spontaneous vegetable products, capable, with but a moderate share of toil, of amply rewarding the capitalist, or the farmer, who shall undertake their cultivation, for commercial or manufacturing purposes; and I farther believe, that a careful study into the natures, properties, habits, and usefulness, of such plants as are indigenous to, or capable of being introduced into this country, could not be otherwise than entertaining and instructive to every citizen.

Is it not a matter of astonishment, that at the present period, when our manufacturers have already arrived at such a high state of perfection, as in most branches to stand forth successful rivals to, and in others to challenge competition with, the older and longer practised artisans of Europe, we are found importing from thence, or elsewhere—instead of furnishing ourselves, from our own soil—nearly all the important adjuncts to successful competition? Suppose, for a moment, we look into the statistics of other countries, for some information regarding an article largely used in this country, but mostly imported from Europe, when if WE *would but realize it*, we should discover, that we can hardly travel twenty miles hereabouts without seeing it growing wild in abundance—it is nothing more nor less than that poisonous shrub, or weed, called SHUMAC, or SUMAC, which grows frequently *where nothing else will grow*, and is generally looked upon by the farmer as *good for nothing*—while, if he would but bestow upon it some attention, he would find much benefit accruing therefrom, which now gets into the pockets of foreigners.

At the first glance, it will, no doubt, be a matter of surprise to many, and difficult to realize, the vast quantity of the sumac used in Great Britain, for the purposes of dyeing and tanning. In the years 1832 and 1833, according to M'Culloch, the quantity *entered for home consumption only*, amounted to no less than *thirteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-four tons and two hundred weight!!!*

The following tabular view of the number of bags imported into Liverpool, during a period of five years, is taken from a circular issued by Messrs. Jee, Brothers & Co., 31st December, 1832.

	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.
Bags,	23,000	26,000	35,000	41,200	44,000

which shows a progressive increase.

I am yours, &c.,

A FRIEND TO NATIVE INDUSTRY.

The external misfortunes of life, disappointments, poverty and sickness, are light in comparison of those inward distresses of mind, occasioned by folly, by passion, and by guilt.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Quince Trees.

The time for planting trees being now near, I take the liberty of recommending to farmers, to cultivate the quince tree more extensively than they have heretofore done, both for pleasure and profit. Quinces in the Philadelphia market sell for, from two to six dollars per pushel, according to the quality. I have never known them to sell for less than twenty-five cents the half peck, and fine one's have often sold for three times that price. The great demand for them is for preserving, for which purpose every house-keeper knows their value. But for *drying*; to *mix* with *dried apples* or *peaches*, they possess a value, unrivalled by any other fruit; the superior flavor communicated by them to pies can only be appreciated by those who have tasted of their excellence when used in that way. The tree is more easily cultivated than most other kinds of fruit trees; they grow from the slip, if the soil is moist; may be propagated from suckers, or by grafting, or any of the usual methods of propagating fruit trees. They are hardy, do not shade the ground much, and are not as liable to injury from cattle as many other trees; and to crown all, the fruit, either green or dried, always sells readily for a high price. Now, what should prevent a farmer from having twenty, fifty or a hundred of these valuable trees set out along his fences, where they would not lessen his other crops, and would bring in a handsome annual revenue, to increase his library, or help to procure an out-fit for a son or daughter, when they are about to quit the paternal mansion, for a settlement in life on their own account.

I would particularly recommend the extensive cultivation of the quince to our Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania farmers. If they are brought to the Philadelphia market in a dried state they will bring five times as much as dried apples, and the carriage would be the same; they would sell at once, and not lay on hand for a long time as the western dried apples often have done, and then been sold for a trifle, hardly sufficient to pay transportation, storage and commissions. Think of it, and act promptly; there is no mistake about it.

MARIA.

Feb. 27, 1838.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

"Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost,"

The Poor Widow and her Cow.

On the approach of the winter 1836, '37, a poor widow, who resided on a small lot in the lower part of Bucks county and kept one cow, that was a principal support for her

family, and having but a scanty supply of hay and corn fodder, regretted much on a morning when visiting her charge to see the corn-stalks stripped smooth of their leaves, and so large a bulk of the stalks remain useless in the rack. Her good sense at once suggested a plan of rendering this refuse available. She cut the hard stalks with an axe into pieces two or three inches long, and boiled a portion of them daily in her wash-kettle, and then fed them to her cow, and to her great surprise, she found them eaten with a high relish. The quantity of milk was more than double during the winter, and in the spring, she had the satisfaction to find, she had so largely contributed to the comfort of her family at so cheap a rate, and that not even a dry corn-stalk had been suffered to go to waste.

X.

Important to Farmers.

A few weeks since we published a communication from a correspondent, giving the results of an experiment in plant ng corn, by Hart Massey, Esq. of this village. Mr. Massey called upon us on Saturday last to correct an important error in said communication, and invited us personally to examine the said field, which we accordingly did, and now give the results of our observation.

Mr. Massey took of the seed corn with which he planted the field, a small quantity, and soaked it in a solution of sal nitre, commonly called salt petre, and planted five rows with the seeds thus prepared. The remainder of the field, we believe, was planted by the same individual. Now for the result. The five rows planted with corn prepared with salt petre, will yield more than twenty-five rows planted without any preparation. The five rows were untouched by the worms, while the remainder of the field suffered severely by their depredations. We should judge that not one kernel, saturated with salt petre was touched, while almost every hill in the adjoining row suffered severely. No one who will examine the field can doubt the efficacy of the preparation. He will be astonished at the striking difference between the five rows and the remainder of the field.

Here is a simple fact, which if seasonably and generally known, would have saved many thousands of dollars to the farmers of this county alone, in the article of corn. It is a fact, which should be universally known, and is, in all probability, one of the greatest discoveries of modern times in the much neglected science of agriculture. At all events, the experiment should be extensively tested, as the results are deemed certain, while the expense is comparatively nothing.

Mr. M. also stated as to the result of another experiment tried upon one of his apple trees last spring. It is a fine thrifty healthy tree, about twenty-five or thirty years old, but has never in any one year, produced over about two bushels of apples. While in blossom last spring, he ascended the tree and sprinkled plaster freely on the blossoms, and the result is, that it will this season yield twenty bushels of apples. Now if the plaster will prevent the blast, it is a discovery of great importance. Mr. M. was led to make the experiment by reading an account of the production of trees adjoining a meadow where plaster had been sown at a time when there was a light breeze in the direction of the orchard, the trees contiguous to the meadow bearing well, while the others produce no fruit.—Watertown (N. Y.) Standard.

The American Farmer.

The proprietors of this paper have a few complete sets of this work on hand, which they will dispose of at the reduced price of $50 a set. They are half bound, and comprise each 15 volumes. The American Farmer, it will be recollected, was the *pioneer* in agricultural improvement in this country, being established in 1819, by John S. Skinner, Esq., to whose talents and industry its pages are indebted for, perhaps, the most valuable collection of agricultural matter to be found in any work extant. Those who desire to possess themselves of this valuable work, will make early application, as the number for sale is very limited.—*Far. & Gar.*

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Canada Thistle.

A number of years since large quantities of Timothy seed were introduced from the northern part of the State of New York, into the counties in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and sold among our farmers; with it was introduced that most *pernicious pest*, the Canada Thistle, which has taken root among us, and is extending itself in the counties of Delaware, Chester, Bucks and Montgomery, and perhaps in other places not at present known to the writer. Several who have it on their farms, have but recently become apprised of the name and character of this unwelcome stranger, who has become seated among them. Many no doubt do not yet know this enemy to their peace and prosperity. It behoves all to be up and doing to extirpate this worst of all enemies to agriculture, before it takes entire possession, and drives us from our farms. It is the opinion of those best acquainted with this weed, that the best farm in the State, if well set with it, would not be worth ten dollars per acre. The roots of the other species of thistle are biennial, and of course by preventing them from seeding, they are easily got rid of. But the root of the Canada Thistle is perennial, creeping, and very tenacious of life. It penetrates the earth to a great depth, and each fibre of the root will produce a new plant. Dr. W. Darlington of West Chester, says:—"This foreigner is the vilest pest that ever invaded the farms of our country, in the form of a weed." Should any of your readers possess a knowledge of the best method of ejecting this unwelcome squatter, he would much oblige by communicating it through the Farmers' Cabinet.

O.

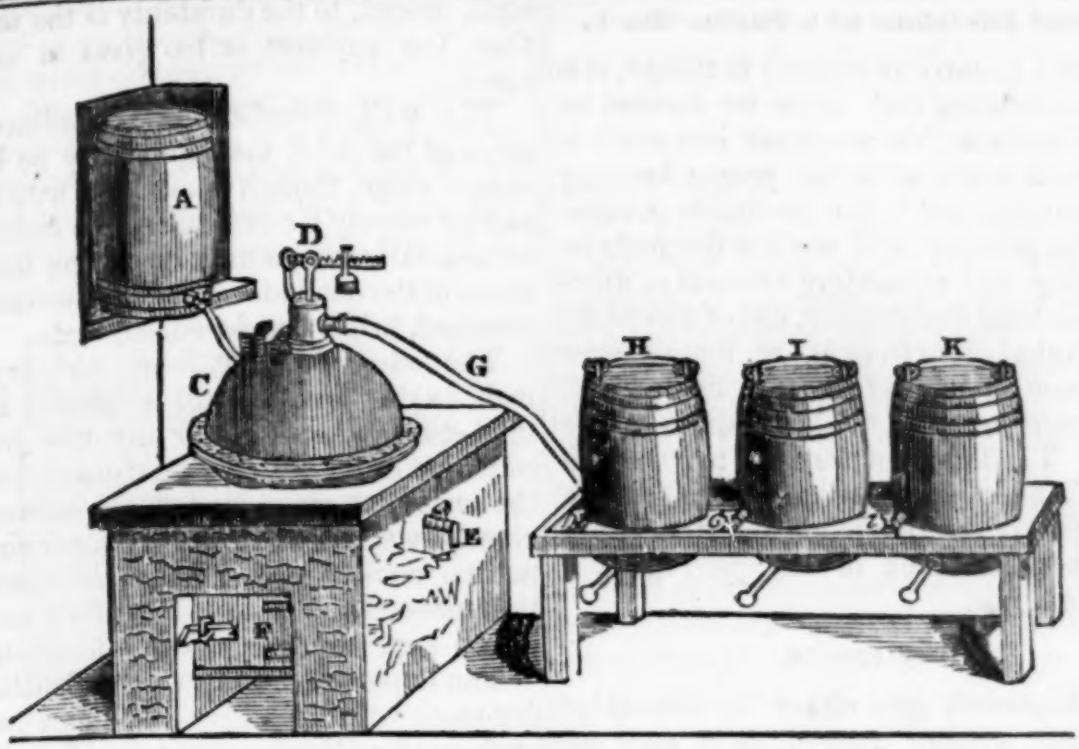

Fig. 39.

Apparatus for Boiling and Steaming Food.

In numerous cases it is found to add to the nutritive properties of roots and grain, to boil them before they are given to animals. The most economical method of preperation, is by heating the water by means of steam, conveyed from the boiler to the vessel containing the roots or grain.

Any kind of wooden box or barrel will answer for the purposes formed, as to admit of being readily filled and emptied. The steam is to be conveyed in a pipe to the lower part of the vessel, which ought to have a sliding board at the bottom to allow the contents to be discharged when ready. The vessel may be filled with water, though this is not necessary in the case of succulent roots as the potatoe, because the steam is quickly condensed. But when corn is to be boiled, it should be covered with water, that the steam may be condensed.

The above figure represents a *steaming apparatus* of a sufficiently good construction. A, is a barrel or other vessel for containing water and supplying it to the boiler C. D, is a safety-valve. At the upper part of the boiler at C, are placed two tubes, with stop cocks. One of these tubes terminates near the bottom of the boiler. Upon the stop-cock being turned, water should always issue from this tube. When, therefore, steam issues from it, and not water, this indicates that the water is too much boiled away, and consequently that there is a deficiency of water in the boiler. The other tube terminates within the boiler near the top. Upon the stop-cock being turned, therefore steam ought always to issue forth. But should water in place of steam come out, then it will appear that the boiler is too full of water. In this manner, the attendant by turning either stop-cock, ascertains whether there is a deficiency or excess of water in the boiler.

The quantity of water could indeed be regulated by nicer means; but that described will be found sufficient in practice. F, is the furnace, and E, is a pipe with stop-cock, communicating with the boiler. When it is wished to obtain hot water, it is obtained by this pipe. A pipe G, communicates with the barrels H, I, K, and conveys the steam to them; and in these is placed the food to be steamed. By means of the stop-cocks, T, T, T, the communication can be cut off with any of the barrels, so that the steam may be admitted to one barrel or two barrels, or three as may be attended. Each barrel has a moveable lid, which is kept down by screws, and a sliding board below, by which the food, when ready, is withdrawn, so that a wheelbarrow or vat may be placed below, and the food at once emptied into it. By means of an apparatus of this kind, roots and other parts of plants may be steamed in a convenient and economical manner.

Important to Farmers.

We are well assured that the genuine Italian Spring Wheat, sent to this market by the gentleman in Oneida Co. N. Y., who procured it, can be obtained in this city of Mr. I. L. Pierce, Bull's Head, North Third St.,

Artificial Divisions of a Farm.—No. 1.

Where a country is entirely in tillage, it is of less importance that farms be divided by artificial barriers; but wherever live stock is kept, this is essential to the proper keeping of the animals, and to the profitable occupation of the grounds; and besides the purpose of retaining and separating animals of different kinds from one another, and of defending the cultivated crops from injury, fences serve the purpose of sheltering the fields, and, when accompanied by ditches of draining the ground. The fences of the farm may consist either of stone-wall, or of live fence, or of a combination of the live fence and stone-wall, and sometimes even of an open ditch, a mound, or a rail.

STONE FENCES.

The stone-wall may either be formed of stones built without cement, or it may be built with mortar like common masonry.—But the last of these methods is rarely practised with the common fences of a farm.—The cementing of the stones with mortar, adds, indeed, to the durability of the wall, but then the expense is too great in common cases.

The wall, therefore, for the ordinary purposes of the farm, may generally be built of stones alone, though sometimes with a little mortar merely for cementing the coping, and occasionally for pinning or closing the interstices of the outside. When stones cannot be obtained, brick may be substituted.

The materials for building the dry-stone wall, as this kind of wall is termed may be sand-stone, whin-stone, or any other stones of sufficient durability. Loose stones taken from the surface, termed land-stones answer sufficiently well, if they be of proper size, and not too much rounded; but in the latter case, they present too smooth a surface, and cannot be kept in their places without mortar.

The implements to be used in building the dry-stone wall are, a mason's hammer, a spade or shovel for clearing the ground for a foundation, a pick or mattock, and a frame of two upright posts fixed together, so as to correspond with a verticle section of a portion of the wall, (Fig. 40.)

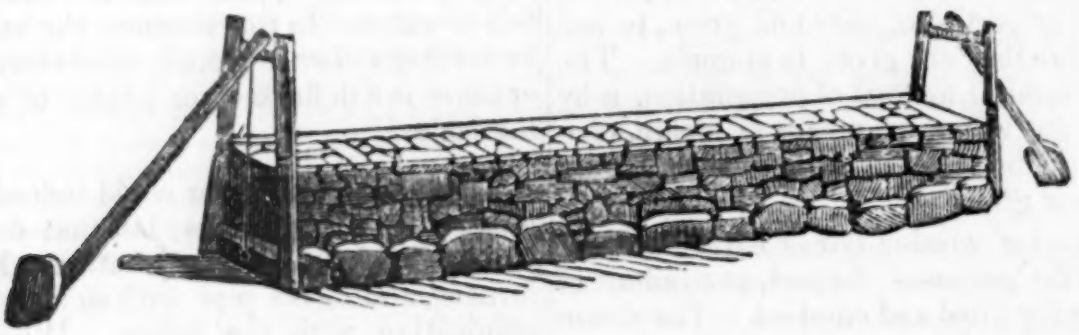

Fig. 40.

The line of the intended fence being fixed upon and marked on the ground, the stones for building should be brought forward, and laid down on both sides, if possible, of the line of fence, but, if not, on one side. Pins being fixed in the centre of the space to be occupied by the wall, the workman proceeds thus:—He carries his wooden frame to some distance along the line to be built upon; he sets it perpendicular, which he is enabled to do by means of a plumb-line attached to it, and he fixes it in this position in a simple manner as shown in the figure. He then fixes another similar frame at the place where the wall is to commence; he stretches two cords between these two frames on the outside, and as these cords correspond with the outside of the wall at a given height; he has a guide for building it of the required dimensions. After having built one portion, he uses only one frame, the wall itself serving afterwards the part of a frame: for the cords being fixed to both sides of the wall, and then attached to the frame which is placed in advance, the workman has, as before, a guide by which he proceeds in building.

The foundation of the wall should be laid on firm ground, and when there is not green sward to build upon, the loose earth should be taken out by the spade, until a solid foundation is arrived at. In building, the largest and flattest stones should be used for the foundation; and it is very desirable, if the materials used will allow, to place stones at intervals, of sufficient size to lie across the breadth of the wall, so as to bind the wall together and render it more secure. (Fig. 41.) different kinds of coping may be placed

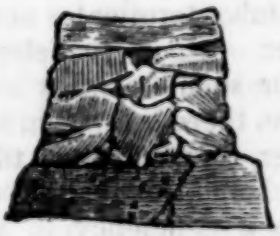

Fig. 41.

upon the wall, to defend it, one of these consists merely of turf, two sods being laid upon the wall, with the earthy sides placed to-

wards each other. Another species of coping consists of large stones, which being closely built and wedged together, are cemented by mortar. This is a complete and durable species of coping, but when it is used, a row of flat stones should be laid on the top of the wall immediately beneath the coping and made to project a little on each side of it. (Fig. 42.)

Fig. 42.

A wall sufficient for the purpose of the farm may be 32 inches wide at bottom and including the coping 4 1-2 feet high, and two good cart loads of stones will suffice for building a yard.

Society for Promoting Agriculture.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, held at their Hall on Wednesday, the 21st, Feb. the following resolutions having been passed, were ordered to be published.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Messrs. Joseph Cloud, David Comfort, and James Thornton, be a committee to inquire and make report on the best method of destroying the Canada Thistle.

On motion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Jos. Cloud, Kenderton Smith, and Algernon S. Robers, to digest a plan for the distribution of premiums for the advancement of agricultural objects.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the secretary be authorized to publish an invitation in the various papers of the city and county, for communications upon rural economy and agricultural subjects generally, to be submitted to the Society.

On motion

Resolved, That the President, Treasurer and Secretary be a committee to apply to the legislature for a renewal of the charter of the society, which is about to expire.

KENDERTON SMITH, Secretary.

At the previous meeting it was on motion

Resolved, That all communications on agricultural subjects, approved by the society, be published in the Farmers' Cabinet.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

How to Improve Poor and Barren Lands.

MR. EDITOR:—I read an account, I think in the "Norwich Courier, Conn." about the year 1821 of an experiment, which so much impressed my mind, that I reviewed it a number of times, and distinctly recollect the principal facts, though the name of the gentleman who related them has escaped my memory. His statements and calculations were made with such perspicuity and accuracy, that convinced that he was a person of intelligence and close observation, and left no doubt on my mind of the correctness of his statement.

He purchased for 500 dollars by way of experiment, one hundred acres of light pitch pine land, which was considered of little value, except for the wood that was on a part of it, little more than sufficient to build a strong log fence round the whole lot. As he resided at a distance, he hired all the work done upon it by the job, which enabled him to make a more accurate estimation of the various expenses. He fenced, cleared, and burnt over such parts as were combustible. If I recollect right, he ploughed the whole in the spring, and harrowed in oats and clover-seed, but let the scanty crop of oats decay on the ground. The next summer when the clover was in blossom, he turned it under with a deep furrow of the plough, and harrowed in clover-seed again. The summer following he again ploughed in the clover, in the fall cross ploughed it, and sowed wheat, clover and timothy, and harrowed in the seeds. The ensuing summer he had a crop of wheat of excellent quality, of between thirty and forty bushels to the acre. He hired it harvested, threshed and carried to market, making no estimation of the straw. The following spring he had the prospect of a good crop of grass, of which he made no account. He carefully stated the various amounts expended in the purchase and cultivation, calculating accurately the interest upon the whole of his advances for purchase, labor, seeds, transportation, &c. Then he credited the amount received for his wheat, which after deducting the whole amount of expense, including interest, he had quite a balance in his favor, the exact amount I do not recollect, and had remaining 100 acres of land fenced, in a good state for the production of crops under proper management.

I exceedingly regret that I have not the paper at hand, to give a more accurate ac-

count in the gentleman's own words. As there is in our country a great quantity of similar land, I thought perhaps, some one might be benefited by noticing my broken recollection of the statement. Indeed, I have ever considered it as one of the most interesting agricultural experiments I have ever met with.

At the time it came under my notice, I had in the country a farm connected with a manufactory, and observing on it, a steep gravelly side hill that had become barren by washing, after repeated ploughings; I was induced, from the hints of the above statement, to order early in the spring a top dressing of compost, containing leached ashes, and to be sowed plentifully with grass seeds, white and red clover and spear grass (Poa prateusis) which germinated freely. The next year the land was nearly swarded, and a tolerable crop of grass, which I suffered to decay on the ground undisturbed. The following year the ground was well covered with a firm sward, and yielded a fair crop of excellent hay, and the land appeared in good heart. The following winter the property was sold, and subsequently, I have had no opportunity to judge of it.

I am yours respectfully

DAVID L. DODGE.

Cedar Brook, Plainfield, N. J.
Feb. 24, 1838.

RELATIVE VALUE OF PLASTER AND ASHES FOR CORN.

I took three rows in a small piece of corn beside my garden, and put a handful of ashes on each hill of one, a teaspoonful of plaster on each hill of another, and the third left without putting on any of either. I cultivated them all a like, hoeing them twice. During the season some pigs got in and rooted up one end of the rows, leaving but about five rods of each that came to maturity. In the fall I husked the rows as far as they had not been injured, and weighed the ears of each:—Weight of the ashed row, 49 3-4
" plastered row, 48 1-2
Weight of the row which was neither plastered nor ashed, 41 1-4

The ground was green-sward turned over in the spring; the soil clay, inclined to a loam,

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For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Flax Seed.

Would it not be well for each of our good farmers to cultivate a small strip of flax, for the seed only; to be used boiled and mixed with cut straw, hay or other food for animals. One bushel of boiled flax-seed, mixed in small portions with other food, is worth more for feeding, than four bushels of any other grain not excepting even wheat. I should like some of your intelligent correspondents to furnish their views on this subject, in a subsequent number of the Cabinet.

H.

THE ROHAN POTATOE.

Several statements relative to the great productiveness of the Rohan Potatoe, a variety cultivated in France, were published in the papers some years ago. In 1835, John A. Thompson, Esq. of Catskill, N. York, who has a quantity of them for sale, procured some of the seed from France; and from his experience in cultivating them the two past seasons, he says he is perfectly satisfied of their great superiority for the table and their extraordinary productiveness. It is said that in France they have weighed as high as 14lbs. Judge Buel says he planted 12 lbs. of these potatoes last spring. He divided the tubers into sets of two eyes, and planted one set in a hill four feet apart, in a piece of ground much shaded, and in rather low condition. On the 28th of September they were dug, and found to weigh 525 lbs. and measured nine bushels. "We have hardly been able yet to decide upon the quality of this potatoe, having barely tasted of one; yet we deem it equal to the English white, orange or the common peach blossom variety, which are kinds commonly cultivated. Others, however, in whose opinion we place great confidence, do not hesitate to pronounce them superior for the table. They are undoubtedly the most productive variety of the potatoe we have ever met with."—*Genesee Farmer.*

GOOD BUTTER.

We copy the following from the Delaware County Republican.

The county in which your useful paper is published, and where it so widely circulates, is deservedly celebrated for making good Butter, consequently the process must necessarily be well understood. The knowledge, however, required for the proper management of a Dairy appears to be very limited. The object of this communication is to call the attention of those who possess experience on that important subject, and endeavor to elicit from them such information on the art af butter making, as may be useful to the community. There is perhaps no branch of agriculture, particularly in the neighborhood of large cities, that is so profitable and that requires so much attention, as the butter dairy.—Much information is wanted respecting various objects connected with it.

First, The pasture, fodder, and other food of cows, best calculated to produce the most milk, yielding the greatest quantity of cream.

Secondly. The best situation for keeping milk the proper temperature, and the form of vessels required to obtain the most cream.

Thirdly. The state of the milk when it is necessary that it should be skimmed off, or the cream removed from its surface.

Fourthly. The form of the vessel for keeping cream, and the temperature at which it should be kept until it is in a state to yield the greatest quantity and the best butter.

Fifthly. The state of ascidity and temperature of the cream to obtain butter in the shortest time by churning.

Sixthly. The reasons why so, if it is more difficult to obtain butter from cream by churning in the winter than there is in the summer, and how the difficulty of churning is to be overcome.

Seventhly. The best mode of working or purifying and freeing it from the butter-milk, so as to obtain the best flavor, and to prevent its rancidity.

Practical answers to these queries would be of vast importance to the agriculturist, and to the community. J. C.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet.

Planting Trees.

John Libby.—Sir, the following is from an article accredited to the Silk Culturist. "Though the rapid growth of this tree (the Locust,) and its great value renders it a prime object of cultivation, yet the Mulberry will be found to be altogether more profitable. Its growth is as rapid, its timber as valuable, and in addition to both, its foliage will yield a large annual profit in rearing silk worms. We are credibly informed that Mulberry posts of the ordinary length and size for fences have been sold in New Haven for three dollars a piece. Every farmer may double the value of his farm in ten years, by cultivating the White Mulberry for the sole purpose of timber and fuel."

My object in calling your attention to this statement, which, whether from inattention or want of opportunity, I have never seen made before is to ascertain the measure of truth, experimental truth, contained therein. I confess ignorance of the subject, but exageration in the matter of the silk-worm appears to me to be the order of the day. Your sober farmer is after all a little tinged with the speculative fever, whenever exotic plants or animals are brought forward as worthy of introduction; and it is not improbable that like the merino sheep of former years, the introduction of the mulberry and the worm may prove ruinous to individuals though eventually a benefit to the country. It is evident, however, that a tree of rapid growth and durable substance is a great desideratum at the present time. Our forrests are becoming scattered and thinly set, and as a consequence the timber which is still growing is wind-shaken and subject to a rapidity of decay unknown to the earliest inhabitants. Our first attempts at planting will of course be directed to those trees which afford a speedy return for the labor and land bestowed, and which will supply the farmer with the most durable material for fences. The Locust has to this end attracted general attention; if an additional end can be attained at the same time without diminishing the prospect of a rapid supply of durable timber, it should be known and acted upon forthwith. While writing I am reminded that the Locust is said to be the least injurious to vegetation beneath, as shade trees and in fences, and rather to benefit poor soils. Will some one acquainted with the subject drop a few hints by way of information.

Chester County, Feb. 24, 1838.

Culture of Potatoes.

Having had numerous applications for single Nos. of the Farmer from new subscribers, containing Gen. Barnum's account of the manner in which he has raised at the rate of 1000 bushels of potatoes per acre, we have concluded to republish it. We give in this number his directions for the preparation of the ground, planting, &c., and shall hereafter publish the directions for hoeing, harvesting, &c.

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING.

Whatever soil may be selected for this purpose, to ensure a large crop it should be highly manured with compost decomposed vegetables, or barn-yard manure. The latter I consider preferable when it can be obtained with convenience; if raw or coarse be made use of, it should be spread immediately before the first ploughing, on the same day, to prevent the evaporation of its best qualities, which will rapidly depart if left exposed to the sun and atmosphere.

The first should be deep ploughing, and may be done as early as suits the convenience of the cultivator. If a stiff marl or clay soil, it would be well to have it ploughed late in the fall previous to planting. Where compost or other substances not liable to fermentation, are intended as a manure, it is better the spreading should be omitted until just before the last ploughing, after which

should be thoroughly harrowed fine and smooth as possible; then take a narrow light cultivator, or small plough, calculated for turning a deep narrow furrow. With this instrument lay your land in drills twenty inches asunder and four inches in depth, running north and south if practicable, to admit the rays of the sun to strike the plant equally on botn sides; put into the bottom of the furrows or drills about two inches of well rotten barn-yard manure, or its equivalent—then drop your potatoes. If of the common size, or what is more important, that they contain about the usual quantity of eyes, (if more, they should be cut, to prevent too many stalks shooting up together,) put a single potatoe in the drills or trenches ten inches apart; the first should remain uncovered until the second one is deposited, to place them diagonally in the drills, which will afford more space between the potatoes one way, than if laid at right angles in the rows. The covering may be performed with a hoe, first hauling in the furrow raised on each side of the drill; then carefully take from the centre of the space, the soil to finish the covering to the depth of 3½ or 4 inches. By taking the earth from the centre of the space on either side to the width of 3 inches, it will leave a drain of 6 inches in the centre of the space, and a hill of 14 inches in width, gently descending from the drill to the drain; the width and depth of the drill will be sufficient to protect the plant against any injurious effects of a scorching sun, or drenching rain. The drains in the centre will at all times be found sufficient to admit the surplus water to pass off. I am not at all tenacious about the instrument to be made use of for opening the trenches to receive the manure and potatoes; this work should be well done, and may be performed with a common hoe with much uniformity and accuracy, by stretching a line to direct the operation. It is true that the labor cannot be performed with the same facility as with a horse, but it can be better done, and I think at less expense, taking into consideration the labor of the man to hold, the boy to ride, and the horse to draw the machine.

SEASON FOR PLANTING.

In this respect they are a most accommodating crop, allowing the farmer in the southern and central part of the designated district 20 or 30 days to perform the operation. The particular time depends in a very considerable degree upon the climate. In the region of my residence, (the 44th degree of North Latitude,) they may be planted from the 10th of May, to the 15th of June. At the extreme north of the described limits less latitude is afforded for seed time and harvest. The good husbandman in that climate should make all practicable preparations for his crop in the fall, and plant as early in the spring as the ground is sufficiently dry and warm.—Here the growth is extremely rapid, not requiring more than from 90 to 110 days to perfect it. The quantity will not be quite so great as with us, but superior in quality.

Bones---Manure.

It is well known that bones converted to dust constitute the most efficient and valuable manure that has yet been discovered; and that to this substance much of the improved state of European agriculture may fairly be attributed. It has occurred to us as somewhat surprising that in the present advanced state of chemical science, and when the constituent parts of bones are so well known, that no attempts to produce a compound embracing the same substances and capable of producing the same results, have yet been made. Bones are composed of gelatine, fat, cartilage, and earthy salt. Chemistry has determined the nature of each of these substances, and the proportions in which they generally exist in bones is also known. The earthy salts are lime and phosphorus, or the solid part of the bone is phosphate of lime; a substance of great value to plants, and which is found in many of them. We therefore can see no insuperable obstacle in the production of an article, which, if it could be afforded at a reasonable cost, would, from its active nature, and the ease with which it can be applied, supersede all others in those places and for those purposes in which ordinary manure is inefficient or disgusting. We regret that the profound genius of the philosophic Davy had not been directed to this point; as such a discovery would be one of the greatest gifts science has yet made to agriculture. Perhaps, however, the discovery has been reserved for Hare or Silliman, as the application of electro-magnetism to mechanical purposes was for Davenport. We shall see.—*Ib.*

CELLARS.

It is a practice in Germany, worthy of our imitation, to keep open a communication between the cellars and the principal chimney of the house, to enable the noxious air, more or less generated there, to escape. It also promotes the draft of the chimney. The air in cellars often becomes highly deleterious to health, and the sickness of families may frequently be traced to the stagnant and noisome air in these under ground apartments. Where there are different apartments in a cellar, ventilation should be provided for by leaving a passage open over the doors of communication.

Silk Worm & Sugar Beet.

The following letter contains the reply of Mr. Stone, to certain queries addressed to him by Mr. Randolph, Chairman of the Committe on Agriculture. We publish it, with the view of disseminating information on the important subject to which it refers.

To the Honorable, the Committee on Agriculture in the House of Representatives of the United States.

I had the honor of receiving, through the medium of your chairman, a number of interrogatories, and soliciting my speedy answer to the same; to which I remit you the following, as being my deliberate views and best understanding on the subject.

1st. Interrogatory. "Are you acquainted with the culture of the Mulberry and Sugar beet, or either of them?"

I am practically acquainted with the culture of several species of Mulberries and the French Sugar beet.

2nd. Interrogatory. "What kind of soil, and what situation and exposure are the best for the production?" A mellow, sandy loam is decidedly preferable for the Mulberry. As for situation, undulating and high grounds are decidedly best. Much might be said respecting soils, but I will mention some known facts on the subject.

Mulberries will flourish very well on low, damp, rich soils, for one year and after that grow less thrifty, be less hardy to endure the winter, as the root will not mature as well; the foliage will be of a watery, crude, and coarse texture; will not be eaten by the worms as readily, nor is it so well adapted to ther health; and the silk will be of a harsh quality.

But Mulberries propogated on undulating grounds, having a soil of a sandy loam, will flourish about the same the first year, as those on low rich grounds, and much better for succeeding years—will be more hardy to endure the winters—the foliage in every respect far superior. Experienced persons will be sure to select the like locations and soils, to plant Mulberries, from which to produce silk. Our most sandy soils, by being a little nourished, will do for the business very well. A sunny situation as a matter of course is required.

A mellow, sandy sub-soil, is most congenial to the quantity and quality of the sugar beet

3d. Interrogatory. "What species of Mulberry is the most valuable, taking into consideration the capability of enduring cold and frost; the quantity and quality of the foliage, and the labor of culture and stripping?"

There are many species of Mulberries, all of which the silk worms will eat, and produce silk; but it is natural to suppose some to be better than others. Some few are found indigeneous in the United States. It is well known that in Europe, in the silk growing districts, the White Mulberry, (Morus Alba) is very universally used in the business. They are planted in hedge rows or orchards, &c.

There is a new kind of Mulberry introduced within a few years into Europe, and from thence into the United States, which will in time supercede all others, without any doubt, for the purpose of raising foliage for silk worms.

This new species of Mulberry is called the Mulberry of many stems or stalks, (Morus Multicaulis) from the fact of its roots being capable to send up many stems or stalks. The leaves of the Multicaulis tree are at least five times the size of those of the White Mulberry, which proves one very important item of its superiority —the saving of labor required to gather the foliage. It is further proved not only in this country, but also in France and Italy, that a given weight of foliage of the Multicaulis will produce more silk, and of a better quality than the same weight of any other species of the Mulberry known; it having more nutriment and being of a finer texture.

It is also a known fact that the silk worms will eat the foliage from this tree, more readily than from any other, which is a very correct criterion to test the superiority of its foliage; for if worms are fed on Mulberry leaves they dislike, and which they eat with reluctance, they are sure to make but little silk, and of a very poor quality. In the silk growing districts of Europe, most of those who propagate the Mulberry (White Mulberry) do not feed the worms themselves, but sell the foliage by weight to the peasantry, who feed the worms and reel the silk. Though in many instances, the reeling is done in large filatures by water or steam power.

In this case you will perceive that the buyer will have to pay as much for the Multicaulis foliage as for the White, and the seller will get as much pay for his White, as for the Multicaulis; so in this case a change will be slowly effected from their old system. And as they have a more dense population than we have, and all must have some employ, and system or scheme to save labor is met with opposition, and not encouraged. But in the United States we have different views, we are ever ready to adopt a system or a machinery intended to expedite business and save labor. So with us in the United States, who are just beginning in the business, we are sure to satisfy ourselves which is the best species of Mulberry known, and obtain it at first. Respecting the hardihood of the Multicaulis tree, to endure the winter, it has to my knowledge, been successfully propogated, as far north as 42°, and I see no reason why it may not be acclimated, and become as hardy as the White Mulberry.

Respecting the quantity of foliage to the acre, I will give it as my estimate that 5000 lbs., can be produced from the first years growth of trees, and the labor for culture and stripping $75, and by calculating 100 lbs. foliage to the pound of silk, the 5000 lbs. foliage will produce 50 lbs. of silk, and for a few succeeding years will somewhat increase.

By the best accounts, we have in the United States, a far greater amount of Multicaulis trees, that can be found in all Europe. They are there scarcely known among the silk growers, but principally confined to the nursery men, who raise them to sell. But no information of any trees to be imported into the United States the coming spring.

4th. Interrogatory. "What is the best mode of cultivating the Mulberry; at what age may it be stripped; and what is its value, expense, and profit per acre?"

All species of Mulberries used in the silk business, save the Morus Multicaulis, are grown from the seed, and first sown in nurseries, and afterwards transplanted.

The Multicaulis tree is propogated from the bud by cuttings, having one or more bud, or by layers, and no other way in its purity. As it is abundantly given to foliage, it does not produce much fruit, and the seed is not sure to produce its kind if planted. As I consider the Multicaulis tree the only species worthy the attention of the American silk grower, I shall mention more particularly its propagation. My views for planting out a Mulberry field, from which to produce silk are, first—after selecting high grounds with a soil of sandy loam, lay out the field in rows, about eight feet asunder, and plant the trees about four feet apart in the rows; the manure for the business should be a compost of many different kinds. The ground should be cultivated to prevent the weeds and grass from growing. But to propagate the Multicaulis tree for sale, only with the intent to take them up in the autumn, they may be planted in rows three or four feet apart and in the rows, one foot.

But when planted out with the intention to remain in the field, in rows of eight feet as above described, I would cut them down near the ground every autumn, when cold weather will be setting in. The roots in the following spring will send up several stalks where but one grew the prior year.

The White Mulberry may be transplanted from the nursery at the age of one or two years into orchards or hedge rows, and at the age of about four years, it may be robbed of a portion of its foliage, and after a few years growth ladders will be wanted to get up to the foliage.

But quiet different with the Multicaulis. This tree will grow to the heighth, in many instances the first year, of six feet or more, and weigh down its branches with foliage the same as a fruit tree when heavily laden with fruit; and is capable of imparting at least two thirds of its burthen without injury to the tree; and no ladders are required in any wise. I will here mention that in my estimate in answer to interrogatory third—that 5000 lbs. foliage can be produced on one acre, it will not do to rob the trees of all their foliage, for fear of doing an injury to them, but two thirds may be taken without injury. The value from the Multicaulis tree at present is from 25 dollars to 50 dollars per centum, one years growth, and is allowed to multiply about tenfold every year with good attention.

As to the profits to the acre in producing silk, I feel convinced that after proper fixtures, cocooneries, &c. are prepared, and stock for trees on hand, 50 dollars per

acre profit may be obtained without difficulty. I estimate 25 lbs. raw silk to the acre.....$125.
$3 a pound rearing and reeling.....75.

Leaving a clear profit of.....$50.

By making this estimate to you, I feel myself on the safe side, and think it may be much augmented by proper exertions. But if I live another year I intend to satisfy myself by my own experiment as to its correctness.

7th. Interrogatory. "Which is the most valuable species of the silk worms, what the best mode and time for their propagation, the quantity and quality, value of, and market for the cocoons?"

We have several species of silk worms, and spin several colors of silk, some are near white, some between the white and yellow, some a bright yellow &c., all of which will become one color, after being cleansed of the gluten by boiling in soap and water, which is white.—The history of the silk worm is traced back to ancient date. We trace its history to China, and the Chinese pretend by their history they had a knowledge of it about 5000 years ago, and it is well known by other histories that the Greeks and Romans had no knowledge of what silk goods were made of, but knew they were fetched by caravans across the deserts from the east, and cost an enormous price, even their weight in gold. But in the sixth century two Persian Monks secretly got a few silk worm eggs in the hollow of a cane, and fetched them to Constantinople to the Emperor Justinian, and they gradually spread over the south part of Europe.

We wish to find the species of worm that will spin the largest cocoons, and equally as good quality as any other. I have a preference for the kind called the White Mammoth worm, which spins a large white ball, and of good quality. We have a kind that winds a yellow ball of good size, and is a very good kind, but the one that spins the large white ball I prefer.

The mode and time for their propagation in some respects varies; but the mode of hatching is nothing more than exposing the eggs in a warm room of some 70 or 85 degrees heat, and in a few days they germinate into life, and the worms appear, and though quite small at first, if pieces of Mulberry leaves are laid by or over them they soon commence eating. They may be placed on papers or cloths, and laid on tables whilst hatching, and fed there a few days, when they are removed on a net work frame, and there to be fed until the time of spining their balls. But in no wise must they be exposed to the rays of the sun either the eggs or worms

The time for propagation is when the foliage becomes sufficient for stripping to feed the worms. We learn that in Europe they have but one hatching season, which is about the middle of May, and the last of June their feeding season is over; but a mode has been discovered among us of late by some of our experimenting fellow countrymen to procrastinate the eggs from hatching to our convenience. This mode is to place the eggs in an ice house in dry vessels, and when prepared for the worms, bring the eggs into a warm atmosphere, and they hatch perfectly well any time during the summer. But care must be taken to deposit the eggs in the ice house in the winter time before warm weather. This is nothing more than prolonging their winter. As to the quality of American cocoons or silk, I will refer you to the authority of Italian and French silk growers and English manufacturers, who report to us that no silk in the world will excel the American as to the quality of silk on a given amount of cocoons, or the superiority of the silk in its texture.

Ten lbs. cocoons are allowed to make one bushel with the floss on, and one bushel is allowed to make one pound of raw silk, reeled ready for market or manufacturing.

When raw silk is worth $3 a lb. a bushel of cocoons is well worth $1,25 "Twenty-five hundred cocoons will make one pound reeled silk. There is a ready market for raw silk or cocoons, at the eastward, where manufacturing has begun.

When filatures (reeling houses) shall be established, they will cause ready markets for small or large parcels of cocoons in their vicinities. Their transportation to a distance is not practicable,

We have already facilitated the reeling, and brought it into so simple a form, that young girls at the age of eight or ten years can work at it admirably well. The French and Italian writers on the subject have represented it as a very great obstacle to surmount in the silk business. But I think those who may visit us in Burlington the coming summer and autumn will have ocular demonstrations that the difficulty can be easily overcome.

6th. Interrogatory. "Has your State Legislation proposed any, and if any, what encouragement to promote the culture of the Mulberry and sugar beet?"

The New Jersey State Legislature, the present session have made an able report in favor of the culture of silk, accompanied with a bill granting a premium of fifteen cents a pound on all cocoons raised in this state for the next five years,

7th, Interrogatory, "What is the best variety and the best mode of cultivating the sugar beet, and what its value, cost, and profit per acre?"

I cannot answer you from experience which is the best variety of beet, but no doubt the White Silician beet is most productive of saccharine matter.

After the ground is made mellow the beet seed may be planted in rows by drills eight or ten inches apart. Their value and profit per acre, I feel fully assured is equal to the potatoe crop, for the farmer to raise for feeding stock. The cost of raising will be greater, but the crop will be much more abundant than the potatoe crop.

8th and 9th, Interrogatories. "What would be the necessary expense of erecting suitable works for the manufacturing of sugar from the beet?"

"Would the manufacture of sugar from the beet be more or less expensive than from the cane: could it be profitably conducted at present prices, or at what price could it be furnished?"

To these two last interrogatories I can furnish no satisfactory answer. I have seen some specimens of sugar made from the beet that was very good.

Many of our countrymen entertain the belief the beet sugar bnsiness will be brought into a system which will pay a good profit.

It might be said a community or a nation of people can comfortably live without the articles of silk or wine. But their use has become so interwoven with the habits and customs of civilized nations, they are made indispensable alticles. At present we are paying an enormous tribute to foreign nations for these articles. And as we have such a variety of soil and climate, I feel assured both may be produced in our country with a profit to the producer. Besides some attention is beginning to be paid to the culture of silk, attention is being paid to the culture of the vine in some sections of our union, and the juice is expressed from the grape with good success. Our native grape is found to be profitable for our use.

Respectfully yours, &c.
CHAUNCEY STONE.

Hon. Jas. T. Randolph, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Burlington, N. J. Feb. 1838.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Mixed Husbandry.

Mr. Editor.—The question is often asked "what branch of agriculture is most profitable—grain raising—dairying—wool-growing—the rearing ofstock—graining, or any other of the various pursuits of the agriculturist!" This question, though well enough for the purpose of eliciting discussion, is nevertheless, I conceive, a most *idle* one, if put with any view of learning the truth from a *direct* answer. There are those however who are ready to give that answer, and to decide in favor of *one single* department of agriculture, to the exclusion of *any* other, or *all* others. This is not perhaps surprising. The man who has followed one particular path and been successful in it, is apt to imagine that his own is the only road to wealth.

I have been often struck with this fact in looking over our agricultural publications. *A.* writes to prove that dairying yields the best profits, and that it is subject to fewer contingencies than any other branch of husbandry. *B.* is equally sanguine for grain raising,—and *C.* for sheep. Each not only at-

tempts to prove that his own *is* the best business, but he contends that it *always must remain so !*—Yet how many have lived to see their confident predictions entirely falsified by the event—their favorite pursuit placed for a considerable period at least, entirely at the bottom of the list.

The truth is when we mount our hobbies, (especially on paper) we are liable to take a little too much for granted. "Paper calculations" has passed into a bye-word. Fortune always smiles on paper! Our grain never rusts—or is winter killed—or destroyed by insects, in a paper calculation! Our sheep always shear just so much wool—raise just so many lambs to the hundred, and the wool always commands just such a price! Our cows "cannot fall short" of so many pounds of butter and cheese to the head, each week—and these commodities "cannot fall short" of so many cents to the pound! So on, through the chapter of hobbies. In this way we *figure* ourselves into a fortune. But who does not know that the "tide in our affairs" does not always carry us on smoothly? Who does not know that prices are always fluctuating; that accident is ever at work; that misfortune will assail us; that

"A' *our* views may come to nought
Where every nerve is strained!"

It may be laid down as an axiom in agriculture, that no one branch can be permanently more profitable than all others. The principles of political economy forbid this. Demand and supply must regulate each other. If transient causes—particular circumstances—render the producing of ony one commodity the most profitable, the *rush* attending the discovery soon restores the equilibrium—nay, sinks the favored article, for a period, below the common level.

I do not doubt that any department of agriculture entered into with a discreet appreciation of circumstances, and followed skilfully and perseveringly, will, with the ordinary blessings of Providence, lead the man who has some capital to the acquisition of more. But the danger of farming with exclusive reference to a single object, lies in the fact, that in so doing, we commit all to a single risk—in nautical phrase, embark all in one bottom.—This may do well enough with the capitalist, but it is far otherwise with the mass of farmers. They are not able to lose, or lie out of the produce of a season. And they are always liable to be placed under the necessity, where they commit all to one venture. If that venture be in sheep, a revolution in the pecuniary world may (as at present) destroy the market for wool; if it be in the cultivation of wheat, the rust, or the worm, may doom the granary to emptiness. It is true that the labor of a whole season may also be lost, where a course of mixed husbandry has been pursued, but the risk is less. When one cable has parted, another may hold the vessel. Each adds to our chances of safety.

Mixed husbandry as a system is objected to because it militates against the theory of a "division of labor." Let every one, says the advocate of this theory, bend his energies towards a single point—cultivate that which he can cultivate best, and exchange his surplus for such other commodities as he may want. This is good doctrine in the mechanic's shop, or the manufactory. The blacksmith had better stick to his trade, and if he wants a wagon, buy it of the wagon maker; but no such degrees of skill are requisite in each of the simple avocations of the husbandman. Good common sense, aided by the experience which he rapidly acquires, fits him for the whole round of his duties. But it is said that much time is frittered away in the constant change from one description of labor to another. There is perhaps some force in the objection, but this *change*, according to my taste, adds to our enjoyments, by introducing a pleasing variety into our routine of labors. This, and the pleasure of being surrounded by so many agreeable objects, constitutes, to my mind, one decided argument in favor of mixed husbandry. We farm it not only to make money, but to make ourselves happy. A variety of pursuits, no one followed until it becomes a drudgery, are enjoyed as pastimes. We go forth and we are gladdened with a scene, not abounding in the stern sublimities of nature, but glowing in the beauty of *utility*—the meadow stretching away in the vale—the wood fringed uplands—the intervals tesselated with fields of various colored crops, in every stage of vegetation—yonder hill-side dotted with sheep—and the pastures devoted to horses and kine. Neither do we pass contemptuously over yonder field of clover filled with luxuriating swine, and even the gay colored poultry, the cock with his noisy harem, add to the general animation of the picture. A well regulated farm, where the mixed system is adopted is a little independent nation (a government strictly patriarchal) of itself. With the exception of some few 'importations' from the shelves of the merchant, and the calling in of the mechanic's skill to manufacture its *raw material*, it contains within itself the element of self support, the true luxuries and substantial necessaries of life. I speak of course of lands which will admit of the introduction of such a system. Some I admit will not. There are those for instance, well adapted to dairying, which would not yield wheat enough to pay for the tilling. But if good for dairying, they would in all probability, be also good for wool growing,

grazing, &c. Now I would not recommend the man who farms such land to attempt the cultivation of wheat, but I would say to him "follow those branches which your lands are best adapted to; but go as far as possible towards rendering yourself independent of the world, and placing yourself above the reach of those contingencies which any *one* branch is always subject to." This I conceive to be the proper distinction—the true rule of agricultural action for those whose means require them to go on the safe side.

SOUTH HILL.

Cortlandville, Dec. 16.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Poetry for Farmers.

To put off till to-morrow what ought to be done to day, is not good economy.

To consider any thing "done well enough," that can be better done, is bad economy.

To plough four inches deep instead of eight, is not good economy.

To feed grain whole, without grinding, boiling or steaming it, is bad economy.

To feed hay or corn-fodder, without cutting it short, is not good economy.

To keep more horses than cows, is bad economy.

To keep more stock than you can keep well, is not good economy.

To suffer the essence of your dung-hill to be washed away by rain, is bad economy.

To omit to mix good earth and sods with your manure heap, is not good economy

To neglect to haul good soil into your hog-pen is bad economy.

To permit docks, mullens and thistles to grow in your grounds, is not good economy.

To neglect to raise beets, ruta baga, and potatoes for winter food for your stock, is bad economy

To omit to boil or steam them before they are fed, is not good economy.

To have less provision for your stock than will supply them six months, is bad economy.

To give your stock less than will keep them in a thriving condition; is not good economy.

To turn out your stock to pasture when the grass is very young; is bad economy.

To pasture your grounds too close in the autumn; is not good economy.

To put in a crop without having the ground in good order; is bad economy.

To neglect to dress a crop in the very best manner; is not good economy.

To be in the rear of the season with your work; is bad economy.

To sow your grass seed too thin; is not good economy.

To neglect your kitchen garden; is bad economy.

To permit trees, shrubs or weeds to grow in it; is not good economy.

To omit to plant out good fruit trees and vines; is bad economy.

To neglect to take good care of them when planted; is not good economy.

To suffer stones to interfere with the cultivation of your fields; is bad economy.

To remove them to a place where they must be moved again; is bad economy.

To permit elders, bushes and briars to take possession of your best land; is bad economy.

To suffer them to hold adverse possession after fair warning, is not good economy.

To permit your buildings and fences to go to decay; is bad economy.

To half repair them, and say "it will do well enough;" is not good economy,

To drink whiskey yourself and give it to your workmen; is bad economy.

To permit it to be brought on to your farm; is not good economy.

To suffer idle fellows to lounge about your place, is bad economy.

To be influenced by their bad example, is not good economy.

To have too many hands for your work; is bad economy.

To have too much work for your hands; is not good economy.

To sow or plant inferior, or dirty seed; is bad economy.

To do it on the "well enough" system; is not good economy.

To omit to lime, marl, or manure your land, is bad economy.

To try if it will do "well enough," without manure; is not good economy.

To suffer your gears, agricultural implements and tools to be out of order; is bad economy.

To permit them to be out of place; is not good economy.

To permit your small dues to remain unpaid; is bad economy.

To neglect to pay them cheerfully when called for; is not good economy.

To undertake to farm without an industrious, frugal wife; is very bad economy.

To marry a proud, indolent and shiftless girl; is not good economy.

To omit to give your children a good solid education; is bad economy

To neglect to train them to habits of industry and sobriety; is very bad economy

To neglect to attend a place of worship on the sabbath; is very bad economy.

To conduct irreverently when there; is not good economy.

To omit to read the Bible and good books on farming; is bad economy.

To neglect to subscribe for "The Farmers' Cabinet," and to pay for it in advance, is the very worst sort of ECONOMY.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

William West of Springfield township, Delaware County, was the father of agriculture in Pennsylvania; he used often to say that "*he loved to see farmers kind to the soil.*" When he was about eighty years of age he was on a visit to this city and met in the street the late B. Johnson, who had a short time before purchased a farm near the city. He in a friendly way, invited William to come and pay him a visit; and give him a lesson on farming; William told him he had now grown old and he did not go much from home and therefore declined, but informed him he would give him a lesson then, which was to make five acres of his farm as rich as he would wish to have it; Benjamin said that would cost too much, he could not afford it. He then told him to make three acres, two,

or one acre, as good as he would like to have it, and then call on him and he would inform what to do next.

By this simple process he communicated the theory of improving a worn out farm; it being the plan he had himself adopted many years before, for bringing a poor neglected farm into the highest state of cultivation of any at that time in the State of Pennsylvania.

R.

It adds much to the *comfort* and *reputation* of a farmer and his family, to have a neat and good garden well stored with useful vegetables; therefore let every farmer be ready as soon as the ground is in a proper state this spring, to dig his garden and manure it, and have it in complete order for planting and sowing all the various seeds necessary for a complete kitchen garden; let the seeds be all of the best kind, and plant out a few ornamental trees and shrubs near the mansion, *but not in the garden, for trees do much injury to a garden.*

From the Farmer and Gardner.

Great Crop of Corn.

The following letter from Mr. Wm. Miller, of Kent county, Md. proves conclusively, that much less ground than is usually devoted to the cultivation of corn, can by heavy manuring be made to yield the desired quantity. Here is an instance of 53 double horse-loads of green barnyard manure being put upon an acre, not only with decided benefit, but producing a result as astonishing as lucrative, considering that the corn was only once harrowed and twice worked with the cultivator. The distance too, at which this corn was planted is worthy of notice, as it shows that close planting is not the scare-crow many imagine.

Kent Co., Md., Nov. 4, 1837.

MR. EDITOR:—

Dear Sir:—I have just finished measuring the corn that grew this year on a lot of mine of 5 acres, and have measured a hundred and five barrels and a half and one bushel of ears, making one hundred and three bushels of corn per acre. The corn is called Semmon s corn; it is a deep yellow, and not a gourd seed, but a very deep grain, and small red cob, has from eighteen to twenty-four rows on the cob. I have taken great pains in selecting my seed for the last three years. I threshed off three hundred and twenty bushels last May, and found from the measurement, it measured from the barrel five bushels and seven eighths of shell d corn. The following is the manner in which I prepared the ground, &c. The soil is a stiff clay, one acre and a half of said lot was in clover last year, the brlance in grass.

I put 265 two-horse cart loads of barn yard manure on it, the manure was coarse made out of straw, corn tops and husks, hauled in the yard in January and February, and hauled out in March and April, and consequently was very little rotted. I spread it regularly and ploughed it down with a large concave plough, made by G. Cox of Middletown, Delaware, 7 inches deep I then harrowed it twice the same way it was ploughed. I then had the rows marked out with a small plough, 3 feet ten inches wide. and an inch and a half deep. I planted my corn from 18 to 20 inches apart, and covered it with hoes: just drawing the furrows over the corn, which covered it an inch and half below the surface. When the corn was 4 inches high I harrowed it, and thinned it two stalks in the hill, in about two weeks after harrowing it, I cultivated it again, which was all the tillage I gave it. We farmers of the eastern shore count our corn by the thousand; I had 38,640 hills on my lot, and I think my corn would have been better had I planted earlier. I think the planting of corn shallow, and working it with the cultivator is much the best way, especially on clover lay. If you think the above worthy of notice, you will please give it a place in your valuable paper.

WILLIAM MILLER.

The monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was held on Tuesday, the 20th of February, in the room under the Atheneum.

The committee on Plants and Flowers awarded the premium for the best display of Plants in Pots to Robert Buist, and the best Bouquet to Ritchie and Dick, Kensington.

Mr. Buist exhibited Amaryllis Johnsonii, Conanthera Campanulata, kennedia florabunda, Verbena, Tweediana, Cammellia Colvillii and C. Dackelaari; the Camellias are entirely new, especially the last, never having flowered in the country before, besides it is an original one from China, although not very double it will be a favorite from its well formed petals and showy flower.

G. WATSON, Record. Sec'y.

From the Farmer and News-Letter.

Ruta Baga for Horses.

MR. COLE:—Noticing in one of your papers a recommendation of Ruta Baga, in small quantities, as good food for horses, I have this winter tried the experiment much to my satisfaction. I have two working horses which I have fed on coarse fodder together with a peck of ruta baga each per day. My horses were never in better health and flesh since I have kept horses, which has been for about thirty years. My neighbors frequently ask how much grain I give them, and they appear much surprised when I tell them—not a kernel. W.

Westbrook, Me. Jan 23, 1838.

Remarks by the Editor:—We have just noticed one of the above horses, and as he is in so fine order, it is no wonder that W's neighbors are surprised when they find that he is kept so well without grain; and we were surprised to learn that the coarse fodder on which these horses are kept is nothing but the rye stubble and weeds, mowed after the crop of grain was harvested.

Here, brother farmers, is an important lesson for you--a very cheap method of keeping horses in fine order so that they will skim you over the ground with the velocity

of old Scrapewell's mare. This fact, together with that of the abundant yield and cheap method of raising ruta baga, is worth thousands to the community. We have before recommended to farmers to raise roots for their stock instead of grain; they are usually worth as much as the grain that can be raised on six or ten times the quantity of ground, and they will keep stock in a better condition than grain. In this way the same amount of food, and better food, can be obtained, and yet the most of the land usually devoted to raising grain for stock can be put to other useful purposes.

Citron Pumpkin.

This most excellent and delicious article, known in this region as the *Valparaiso Squash*, was introduced into this country by Commodore Porter, on his return from the Pacific ocean after the late war. The Commodore gave a few of the seed to the late Lieutenant Gamble, then at the navy-yard in this city, who cultivated them successfully; but owing to some cause, perhaps, a prejudice existing against the squash, the name by which this article was introduced, or a combination of causes, it was not duly appreciated, and consequently not extensively cultivated. Some years since Lieutenant Gamble, was transferred to the navy yard New York, at which place he continued the cultivation, and it gradually spread over Long Island and along the banks of the Hudson. A gentleman of this city, Mr. Thomas L. Plowman, being on a visit two or three winters since at the city of Albany, had his attention arrested by one of the pumpkins being exposed at the bar of the hotel at which he put up. On enquiry, he learned that it was the article that had been served up at the dinner table for several previous days, and which was highly esteemed by all who had partaken of it. He procured one of the innkeeper, brought it to this city, and the following spring, distributed the seed among his friends. All who paid attention to the cultivation of this most delicious vegetable production have been abundantly remunerated. We have conversed with several persons who were acquainted with it in South America, who bear testimony to its very superior qualities. From all that we can learn it is known in different sections under different names. That, at the head of this article, is, we presume, the most appropriate. It most probably obtained the name of Valparaiso in consequence of being brought in the first place by Commodore Porter, from the city of that name.

We are informed that in some parts of Massachusetts, and in the wheat growing districts of New York, it has almost entirely superseded the common pumpkin. It possesses all the good qualities of the pumpkin and squash, is neither watery or stringy, makes a most delicious pie, far superior to that made of the former, and goes much farther. It is also served up at table with meat, in the same manner as the squash, and if not superior, it is certainly equal to the best of the species. For all culinary purposes it is a most superior article, and as it contains a vast proportion of saccharine matter, we are persuaded that it would be highly beneficial to cattle, especially milch cows. Another great and very decided advantage is that the Citron pumpkin, sometimes erroneously called the Valparaiso squash, may be readily preserved throughout the whole winter, provided they are kept free from the influence of frost.

The seed may be planted at the usual time of planting the pumpkin in the spring. Mr. Wm. P. Jenny, of New Bedford, in a letter to a gentleman in this city on the subject, says, "They require a rich moist soil; I planted in beds six feet a cross; they require considerable room, as they are great runners as well as great bearers. I have seen the ground literally covered with them. With us they frequently grow to the weight of 30 to 40 pounds, and I have no doubt that in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, being farther south, they would with proper attention in the culture reach the weight of 70 to 80 lbs. They are in deservedly high repute with us. They ought not to be planted near any other vegetable of the same tribe." They resemble in shape, a mellon, have no neck, are easily cultivated and in great demand, all brought to this market during the last fall being immediately bought up. We hope, inasmuch as many of the seeds have been distributed among our farmers during the last fall, that our market will through the coming season be abundantly supplied. Some in this vicinity the last year weighed over 40 lbs.

From the Wilmington Journal.

Agriculture.

Delaware and New Jersey.—We mentioned in our paper of last week that the agricultural society of this country had, through its president, Philip Reybold, Esq. received an invitation from several prominent and enterprising gentlemen of Salem county, New Jersey, to pay an agricultural visit to the marl pits and lime stone quarries of that region, and also to see in the adjoining county of Gloucester, the celebrated Durham stock of Mr. Edward Tonkins. The compliment was properly appreciated by the society and

a committee was appointed to represent it, and although the weather unfortunately most unfavorable for the excursion, we learn that a respectable number of the committee were in attendance, among whom were Edward Tatnall, Dr. Thomson, and Joseph, Tatnall of this city—Maj. Stockton of New Castle—Philip Reybold, Anthony Higgins, and Philip Reybold jr., of Red Lion Hundred. The committee was met on its arrival at Salem by Josiah Reeves Esq., of Alloways town, Mr. Caseby of Salem, and other gentlemen, and after spending a short time there—were by common consent handed over to the particular care and kindness of Mr. Reeves, who took them all to his house and to whose kind attentions and elegant hospitality, we have heard but one expression of opinion by the gentlemen who were the recipients of it. The whole of Friday was consumed in examining the marl pits about Woodstown, Mannington and Sweedsborough and paying a visit to Mr. Tonkins and his famous stock.

The rich specimens exhibited to us of the shell and green sand marl brought over by one of the committee, as also the lime stone of Mannington quarries, which are in the immediate vicinity of the finest beds of marl —must make Salem one of the richest counties of the state and the clay soil, which abounds there, a fine wheat country;—no better evidence was exhibited to the committee in this improving county, (to which nature has been so bountiful in natural manures) than was shown on the farms of the Messrs. Reeve's,—lands which cost them but four dollars per acre (and unimproved, were dear at that,) covered with cedar bushes and crab grass, and producing nothing like good grass or grain—with the aid of *lime* and *marl*, are now yielding three tons of clover and timothy to the acre, with twenty five bushels of wheat the past year—and corn, rye and other products in the same proportions. The same may be said of all the other lands there, improved in this way—No one without seeing, can imagine the contrast now made between the old sedge commons and the cultivated fields reclaimed from them—the increased value thus given to individual and national wealth, is most obvious and interesting. Specimens of Delaware marl such as were analized by Mr. Booth, State Geologist, (from St. George's hundred,) were taken over by the committee and compared with the best qualities of Jersey marl —they appear very similar, and are no doubt equally enriching if judiciously applied, being of the same great veins which cross each of those states and penetrate largely into Maryland—and containing by examination about the same fertilizing matter. We augur the best results to our agricultural interests of both states from this visit of practical and improving farmers to each other, and the good example set by New Jersey, will not be lost on those of Delaware, who are now boaring and finding marl daily, in most of the lower parts of this country.

Of the cattle of Mr. Edward Tonkins of Gloucesster, the committee speak in the highest terms of admiration and praise. His stock consists of pure Durhams—and of cattle 3-4 and 7-8th in this blood; they say, his cows and 3 and 5 year old steers of this description are models of the kind—and that the two enormous oxen now feeding by him and nearly 8 years old exceed any thing of the kind they ever witnessed. The average number of persons who visit them is supposed to be one hundred daily, from all parts of the country—and there is little doubt that they will each weigh from 2000 to 2500lbs. nett—which will make them the finest pair of cattle ever fed in the United States. A report of this visit will be read at the next quarterly meeting of the Society. The committee returned home safely on Saturday—highly gratified with their excursion and expressing their warmest thanks and obligations to all those who tendered to make their visit instructive and agreeable. Among those we heard particularly alluded to were Mr. Josiah Reeve and brother of Allowaystown, Mr. Caseby of Salem. Messrs. Smith, Riley and Squire Read of Woodstown and Mr. Tonkins of Gloucesster county, and Messrs. Ridgeway and Inskip of the Mannington lime quarries. The farmers of Newcastle county will be ever ready to reciprocate the attentions and hospitalities which have been paid them on their late visit, and we venture to predict to our Jersey neighbors, that although they concede the palm for the present to Gloucester county cattle, they will emulate the spirit which has actuated Mr. Tonkins and make the *Newcastle ox* out weigh them *all*.

P.

Russian Clover.

A variety of clover seed bearing this name was brought into our market, last year, by Mr. A. F. Palmer, and a few pounds were sold and sown. It grew up rapidly, and blossomed, with a somewhat long and conical head. Some sown by friend Paine Wingate, went to seed. It appears to be a thrifty variety, and will undoubtedly yield a good burden per acre. How it will stand the winter, is a question which we cannot now answer. We hope it will receive a more extensive trial another year. It will undoubtedly prove a fine crop for many purposes besides for hay, such as an excellent pasturage for bees, as well as neat cattle, &c.—*Maine Farmer.*

To measure Hay in the Stack.

Where hay is sold by the stack, or where farmers wish to know the quantity they may have on hand, measurement, instead of the tedious process of weighing, may be conveniently practised. The first object, is to ascertain the number of cubic yards contained in the stack. As the practice of building them round or circular, is by far the most common, it is necessary in ascertaining the contents of such, to measure round them at different heights but at *regular* distances, (omitting the part above the eaves, if it is a regular cone, as is usual,) and these measurements added together and divided by their joint number will give the mean circumference. The square of this is then to be multiplied by the decimal .0796; the product thus obtained is again to be multiplied by the height up to the eaves with one-third of the rise from the eaves to the peak, and this last product will be the number of cubic feet in the stack. Divide this by 27 and it will give the cubic yards. The measurement round, may be performed by a cord, drawing it close to the stack, and allowing about six inches in depth for loose hay. The height may be known with sufficient accuracy by placing a pole perpendicularly beside the stack, standing off a few rods, and observing with the eye.

If the stack is square or oblong, multiply the medium length by the medium breadth, and that product by the medium height, (which is the height to the eaves and one-third of the rise of the roof taken together,) and the last product will be the solid contents.

If the hay has been put up in as moist a condition as admits of safety, and has stood six months in the stack, ten cubic yards will make a ton. If it has been put up very dry twelve will be required; if chiefly clover, even as many as thirteen. If the stack is very, large, and has been put up quite moist so as to need copious salting, eight or nine cubic yards will make a ton. According to the experience of the writer, the difference between the most moist and the most dry, at the time of stacking, is, after settling, about as eight to twelve. These circumstances are then all to be taken into consideration. But notwithstanding this variation, the method of measuring is far more accurate than that of *guessing* the quantity.

Genesee Farmer.

The quantity of rain which fell during the last month, was 2 inches and 19 hundreths. 2, 19

Pennsylvania Hospital, 3 mo. 1st. 1838.

For the Farmer's Cabinet.

Italian and Siberian Spring Wheat.

The following statement is made by Mr. Ammi B. Clark of New Hartford, Oneida County, N. York, a practical farmer of the first respectability.

He has raised the Italian for three years; in 1836 his crop was 25 bushels per acre;—in 1837 he ploughed in the stubble of 1836,—4 acres in two days with one span of horses, and he sowed and draged it in, in one day;—three days work, to 4 acres,—gravelly loam; no more work on it till harvest. It yielded 30 bushels to the acre, (no smut or rust) and weighs full 63 lbs. per bushel, the grain is beautiful, plump and bright: so much for the Italian.

He sowed also three acres of Siberian, soil the same as above, but not after a previous wheat crop, as in the other case,—got it in as well or better than the Italian—his yield of Siberian was 20 bushels per acre, 62 lbs. per bushel. He sells the Siberian for $2 00, and the Italian for $2 50 per bushel: and says he shall sow 15 acres to Italian in the spring, but none to Siberian.

J. Hathway.

Rome, N. York, Feb. 28, 1838.

PEAS.

Peas should be sown as early as may be; harrow them in, but they may be ploughed in, if thought best. Be cautious and see that they are not covered too deep. Oats, or some other plants, should be sown with them, in order to support them; as their stems will be too feeble to support them alone. The crop should be cut before the peas become too dry. Lay them in small heaps, and thrash them in the common manner when they are dry enough. The straw is good for fodder. Peas are good for fatting swine or cattle, and, mixed with oats, make excellent provender for a horse. Some people sow them on purpose for fodder, which is proved to be a most nutritious and heavy crop. They leave the ground mellow, and in a good state for a crop of grain. As to bugs, let the peas be soaked in some rich and suitable liquor, made hot, before sown. For the garden, peas should be sown about once a fortnight. Thus you may have green peas through the season. Sow them in double rows, and stick them between, having the brush, or sticks, placed firm in the ground.

There is an early sort, called the Washington peas, which are very excellent. For later peas, the marrowfats are generally preferred, and are very productive. Keep your peas clear of weeds, if you mean to have them do well.

Sweet Mutton.

Isaac Newton, of Delaware county, has brought to market during the past winter about two hundred sheep which he fattened upon sugar-beet, with some portion of corn. This mutton has been pronounced by all our friends, who have tasted it as fully equal to any which they have ever obtained in our market, being remarkably sweet and tender. It has acquired so high a reputation, that Mr. Newton has been unable to supply the demand. It deservedly obtained an extra price; and when our market can be supplied with mutton of this quality it will become an article of general consumption, and be esteemed, as in Europe, one of the most luxurious viands. It is proper to add, that Mr. Newton's sheep referred to above, were in part of the South Down breed, so highly prized in England.

DEAD ANIMALS.

All animals which die on a farm should be covered with mould or earth of any kind. Each dead horse or any animal thus treated, would throw out gass enough to impregnate five loads of earth with its fertalizing properties. To promote the speedy decomposition of animal bodies, a few bushels of lime should be thrown on them previously to being covered with earth or mould. After the decomposition of the flesh, the bones should be broken up and placed in the soil, where they prove both an efficient and lasting manure

Cutting and Securing of Grafts.

Now is the proper time for cutting scions for grafting. The growth of the past season should be taken, of wood plump and well ripened; and it is better, it is said, to take them from the extremities of the limbs, rather than the sprouts which are pushed from the trunk and from the large branches. Some prefer cutting grafts in the spring immediately before setting. This will answer for some kinds, as the apple, if the buds are not too forward; but for others, as the plum and cherry, it will not answer as well; the cherry in particular, as I have found by experience. Grafts cut in the spring, after the sap has begun to flow freely, the vessels become expanded and the buds much swollen, are liable to shrink and perish. It is a common saying with nurserymen, that "the graft should be a little hungry when set," to insure its taking well; that is, not too full of sap; neither should it be too much dried and shriveled. After grafts are cut, they should be labelled by tying with fine wire a bit of pine stick with the name written on it with a lead pencil, and buried in moist earth in the cellar. Other materials than wire, such as twine, bass-mat, &c. are liable to rot, and the labels thus to become displaced when the scions are taken up. W. W. B.

FURNISH YOUR BOYS WITH PAPERS.

A subscriber observed the other day, that his boys had rather disliked the business of farming, and when he took a number of the Yankee Farmer home to examine, the boys read it very attentively, and observed that they would do better if he would subscribe for it. He subscribed for the paper, *paid in advance*, and he says that his boys take more interest in farming, do better and are highly delighted in reading the Farmer. Many other farmers may do likewise with the same advantage.

SADDLE GALLS.

Saddle Galls are generally occasioned by an unequal pressure of the saddle, or by a saddle being badly fitted to a horse's back, and if neglected they grow into very ugly and troublesome sores. When these inflamed tumors are first discovered, cold water alone is frequently sufficient to disperse and drive them away, if applied as soon as the saddle is pulled off; but when that will not have the desired effect, by washing them twice a day in the mixture I shall here recommend, the cure will be readily performed.—Take of sharp vinegar, one gill; spirits of any kind, one gill; sweet oil or fresh butter, one table spoonful; to be well mixed before used.

Scalds and Burns.

The following composition is said by a Cincinnatti paper, to be an excellent remedy for *scalds and burns.* Mix lime-water and sweet oil together intimately; the relative proportions should be such as to produce a compound about as near a perfect liquid as cream. This substance is then to be applied to the scald or burn, with a feather or soft rag. Under the application, the pain of the severest burn *instantly subsides, and if only renewed is an effectual cure.* This application is not generally known, and as we have seen its efficacy frequently tested, can recommend it as the speediest and safest that can be used.

☞The regular monthly meeting of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, will be held at their room in the Philosophical Hall, on the second floor, in Fifth below Chesnut street, on the third Wednesday, the 21st of March, at 11 o'clock, A. M. A punctual attendance of the members is requested. Nomination of new members will be received.

☞The regular monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, will be held in the basement story of the Philosophical Hall, at 7 o'clock, the preceding evening, the 20th of March inst.

ARTICLES.	Philadelphia, March 8.	Baltimore, March 7.	New York, March 7.	Boston, March 7.
Beans, white, per bush	$1 38—1 62½	1 25— 0 00	0 14—0 15	1 12— 1 30
Beef, mess, new, per bbl	14 00—15 00	11 00—13 00	14 00—14 50	14 50—14 75
Bacon, western, per lb	8— 10	9— 10	8— 10	.....
Butter, extra, per tub	12— 14	16— 20	20— 25	22— 25
Butter, fresh, per lb. [market,]	00— 00	20— 25	.....	25— 28
Hams, per lb	10— 11	13— 13½	10— 12	14— 15
Hog's Lard, per lb	9— 10	9— 10	7½— 9½	9— 10
Cheese, American, per lb	9— 10½	9— 11	7½— 8½	8— 9
Beeswax, yellow, per lb	25— 30	23— 25	26— 27	26— 31
Beeswax, white,	.....	38— 40	— 40	38— 40
Bristles, American,	42— 65	25— 65	15— 50	.....
Flax, American,	7½— 8	9— 10	6— 7	9— 12
Flour, best, per bbl	8 00— 8 50	7 75— 8 75	7 00 7 75	9 50— 9 62
GRAIN—Wheat, per bush, Penn'a	1 55— 1 65	1 70— 1 80	.. ..	.....
Do. Maryland,	1 50— 1 60	1 45— 1 55	....	.....
Rye, per bushel,	0 90— 1 00	0 90— 0 95	1 00— 1 06	1 33— 1 37
Corn, do	70— 77	0 70— 72	75— 80	0 94— 0 98
Oats, do	36— 37	37— 38	40— 50	52— 55
Barley, do. Penn	85— 90	.....	95— 1 00	0 00—0 00
Peas, do	1 00— 1 25	75— 1 00	—	.....
HAY, Timothy, per 100 lbs	0 80— 0 85	12 00 per ton.	.....	18 00 per ton.
Meadow Grass,	70— 80	.....	.....	.....
Hemp, American dry rot, ton,	150 0—160 0	—	130 00 140 0	.....
Hops, first sort, 1837, lb	9— 10	— 9	5½— 6	6— 7
Plaster Paris, per ton,	3 25—3 37½	0 00— 3 50	3 52— 3 50	3 00— 3 25
SEEDS—Cloverseed, per bushel,	5 25— 5 50	5 00— 6 00	11½c. per lb	14— 15
Flaxseed, rough, do	1 40— 1 46	1 25— 1 50	1 25	.....
Timothy,	2 00— 2 50	3 25— 4 00	$16 pr. tierce	2 87— 3 00
Tallow, per lb	11— 11½	— 11	— 11	12— 13
WOOL—Saxony, fleece, per lb	00— 00	40— 50	40— 45	50— 55
Merino,	46— 48	35— 40	35— 37	45— 47
1-4 and common,	33— 36	25— 30	20— 25	33— 38

Fruit Trees.

We have received a "*Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubbery, &c.*" cultivated and for sale by SAMUEL RHOADS, at Haddington, four miles west of Philadelphia. The catalogue is extensive, and embraces almost every choice variety. We are assured that orders may be sent with confidence to Mr. Rhoads. Orders are received at No. 258 Market street, where catalogues, with the prices, may be obtained.

☞ Correspondents are respectfully requested to forward their communications, as early in the month as may be convenient.

Chester and Delaware Counties.

A GOOD SIGN.—At a recent meeting of some of the farmers of Chester and Delaware counties, it was resolved to form an Agricultural Society. A committee of twenty from each county was reported to frame a constitution and by-laws for the Society. The committee, we understand will report at West Chester on the 17th of March. Farmers attend!

☞ Since the present number was prepared for the press, several valuable communications have been received. They will appear in our next.

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